

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

RESOLUTION #2015-08

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Gary Peters has co-sponsored the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 which would support local efforts to revitalize waterfronts along the Great Lakes, rivers and lakes to promote economic, ecosystem and community resiliency; and

WHEREAS, Many waterfront communities were built around their water resources years ago, and are now working to overcome issues such as limited public access and outdated regulations which do not work well with modern development. In addition to adapting to economic shifts, waterfront communities are facing pressures to meet increasing demands on water resources, and need to make resilient investments that can adapt and withstand weather extremes such as storms, floods, and fluctuating lake levels, and adjust to changing ecosystem conditions from shoreline erosion to stresses on fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Waterfront planning and implementation requires communities to navigate intergovernmental hurdles, work across constituent groups and agencies, and secure financing, however, many communities lack such resources – despite that this type of preparation can save money long term; and

WHEREAS, This bill will support community efforts to make the most of water resources by attracting water-dependent industries and investments that leverage water sustainability, revitalize neighborhoods, and allow for recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, The bill will encourage and support communities to plan for their future, provide the tools to implement that plan, and help them attract private and non-profit investment by:

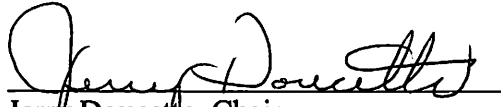
1. Creating a voluntary Resilient Waterfront Community designation within the Department of Commerce. The designation recognizes communities that adopt a waterfront revitalization and resiliency plan integrating economic, ecosystem & infrastructure challenges and opportunities.
2. Creating a Grant Program providing funding to develop and implement a Resilient Waterfront Community plan. Grants could be used to advance various projects, such as:
 - a. Improving waterfront access or acquiring easements from developers for public amenities.
 - b. Making infrastructure upgrades that improve coastal resiliency
3. Establishing a Resilient Waterfront Communities network to support sharing of best practices.
4. Establishing preferred status in other federal grant and loan programs for Resilient Waterfront Communities. Reinvestment and resiliency can reduce long-term costs to taxpayers and spur economic growth. This bill would help projects in Resilient Waterfront Communities move forward more quickly and help maximize the value of federal investments in these communities; and

WHEREAS, Alger County has been and continues to be committed to revitalization of its waterfronts and this legislation will play a key role in those efforts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Alger County Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly offers its support of the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our State and Federal Legislators and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Dated: October 19, 2015


Jerry Doucette, Chair
Alger County Board of Commissioners

