

Superintendent Barbara Rowles  
Attn: PEVI Seawall Project EA Scoping  
P.O. Box 549  
Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456

August 10, 2020

Dear Superintendent Rowles,

We, the undersigned, understand that the current proposed seawall construction project does not include any provision to protect the Bathing Beach from the adverse impact that the south seawall has had on this adjacent property. We are aware of a study done in 2002 by Ecosphere Associates that states "the Galveston wall constructed to protect Perry's Memorial in the mid 1970's acts as a concentrating and confining structure which exacerbates the accumulation of aquatic plants on the beach." In addition to this study, there are many islanders that have been eye-witnesses to these changes affecting the beach since the wall was built.

As property owners on South Bass Island, we would like the National Park Service to recognize that it has some degree of responsibility regarding the affect the South seawall has had on this beach. Therefore, we request additional study and investigation be done in order to find a workable solution to mitigate the adverse impacts of erosion, and excessive debris and aquatic plant deposits that have plagued this beach since the wall has been built.

It has been suggested that the extension of riprap instead of seawall or riprap placed in front of the wall on the southwest portion of the wall would break the seas and cut down on the accumulation of plant debris/erosion on the bathing beach. Another suggestion was instead of having the South Seawall head straight East then angle North East, have a seawall that curves to get back to the natural sweep of the shoreline. A small restored wetland directly behind it would also help cushion the bathing beach and act as a sponge during high water years. It would give the National Park Service the opportunity to present a valuable ecological and historical lesson about the wetland resources that used to be present and need to be replaced along Lake Erie to help with water quality goals (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects.) A submerged structure parallel with the current beach would also break waves and allow sand to be kept on the current beach.

Please consider some measures such as these that could ameliorate the effects of the proposed seawall on the current bathing beach. The National Park Service is a valued partner in the community and we would like to work with you to find a solution that protects the historic nature of the property as well as the adjoining beach resources so treasured by visitors and residents.

We love our island and this is the only public sandy beach on Put-in-Bay that ourselves, our families and tourists can enjoy.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ RESIDENT or AFFILIATION/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_