



# CITY OF MARINE CITY

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MARINE CITY, MI 48039  
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June 6, 2019

Senator Gary Peters  
Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building  
477 Michigan Ave., Ste. 1837  
Detroit, MI 48226

**RE: United States Customs Station, Marine City, Michigan**

Senator Peters:

On behalf of the City of Marine City, we are requesting that you give sincere and thoughtful consideration to the reinstatement of the United States Customs Office located at 451 S. Water St., Marine City, MI 48039. The service port was closed in January 2018 due to ice damage to the causeway on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River, deeming the ferry service inoperable. It was anticipated that this closure was to be temporary until the Bluewater Ferry causeway was repaired; currently there is a conditional offer to purchase and repair the causeway that is contingent upon the reinstatement of the U.S. Customs Port.

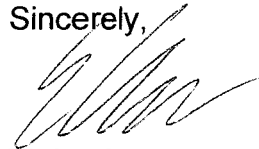
The economic impact of the Port closing has been significantly detrimental to several communities, affecting local businesses along the St. Clair River both in Michigan and in Canada, with some businesses claiming a loss of 50%. In addition, the City of Marine City proudly solicits itself as a border community, we take great measure in promoting tourism, economic advancement and community relations with Canada through the utilization of the Bluewater Ferry. The City has hosted several international events in conjunction with the city of Sombra, Ontario, such as bike tours, kayaking, Girl Scouts International and Guinness Book of World Record attempts and successes that have encouraged and advanced international relations. The ferry is also an instrumental part of International Bike Route 20 throughout Canada and the United States.

Furthermore, with ever-present international border concerns, the closure of an established and well recognized Custom's checkpoint presents the issue of a homeland security concern. The reopening of the station would allow for various governmental operations to continue and provide immediate assistance, should the need arise.

The City adamantly expresses that the benefits of the reinstatement of the United States Custom's Port justify the government expense associated with the Customs Office and more importantly, the reopening of the Port is imperative to the continued economic and community well-being in both Michigan and Ontario.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration and attention to this immensely crucial issue.

Sincerely,



Elaine Leven  
City Manager



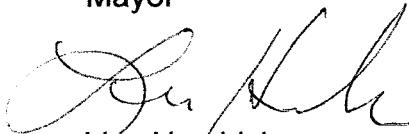
Wendy Kellehan  
City Commissioner



Dave Vandebossche  
Mayor



Jacob Bryson  
City Commissioner



Lisa Hendrick  
City Commissioner



Cheryl Vercammen  
City Commissioner



William Klaassen  
City Commissioner



Paul Merchant  
City Commissioner