

Congressmen Pet Stauber

145 Cannon HOB

Washington DC, 20515

Congressmen Stauber,

On behalf to the Voyageur Country Houseboat Operators Association and Voyageur Country ATV Club I would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony at the recent Congressional Field Hearing that was held in Hayward Wisconsin.

Our testimony titled, Unique challenges to public access in Voyageurs National Park offered detailed insight into what stakeholders fear will reduce access and slow the tourism economy in our gateway communities.

Congressman Stauber you asked the question about how important the economic impact of Voyageurs National Park is to the local economy. I have attached the link below that will provide a detailed answer to your question.

<https://www.nps.gov/voya/learn/news/tourism-to-voyageurs-national-park-creates-24601600-in-economic-benefits.htm>

In addition to this link, we have also included supporting documentation of the State of Minnesota's contention that it has never ceded the waters of Voyageurs National Park to the United States of America. The waters of the state are held in trust by the state's constitution to the citizens of Minnesota, therefore they cannot be sold or given away.

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/waterlaws.html

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Dougherty

President

Voyageur Country Houseboat

Operators Association