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# Romaine Robert Quinn

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STATE SENATOR • 25<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

From: Wisconsin State Senator Romaine Robert Quinn  
To: U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands  
Re: H.R. \_\_\_\_ (Rep. Tiffany), "*Apostle Islands National Park and Preserve Act*"  
Date: July 24, 2024

Thank you Subcommittee Chairman Tiffany and committee members for allowing me to testify before you today.

I am Wisconsin State Senator Romaine Quinn and my senate district encompasses nine counties in the northwest corner of the state, which includes the Apostle Islands. I am here today to enthusiastically support Representative Tiffany's proposal to elevate the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to the status of Apostle Islands National Park.

Known as the crown jewels of Lake Superior, the Apostle Islands are a treasured natural resource in Wisconsin and for the nation, for the residents of our region but also for the countless visitors who come to experience their pristine beauty, scenery and wildlife, and outdoor activities.

The federal government has already recognized the importance of this area through its commitment in establishing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in 1970. On the shores of Lake Superior, the national lakeshore designation is comprised of 21 islands and 12 miles of mainland shoreline.

For those who haven't been there, let me briefly describe this natural wonder. The Apostle Islands display diverse natural habitats, from beaches to forests to towering sandstone cliffs. Miles of hiking paths lead visitors to lighthouses, crystal clear waters, and other scenic views. Sea caves are best explored by kayak in the summer and offer a unique perspective as ice caves in the winter. Adventure can be found in any season of the year.

National parks are renowned for attracting visitors from every state who wish to see the natural beauty the American landscape has to offer. Transforming the Apostle Islands into a national park will allow visitors that opportunity by preserving the Apostle Islands and providing benefits that align with the values of our community.

The designation of the Apostle Islands as a national park will have a positive impact on our local economy, bringing more visitors to the area who contribute to local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, shops, and recreational services. Increased tourism will create new job opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and support the livelihoods of many residents in the Bayfield area and beyond. For example, a National Park Service study found that communities within 60 miles of a national park saw an average increase in tourism spending by 14%, with related job growth of 11%.

In summary, national park status will raise the profile of the Apostle Islands on a national and international level, drawing attention to the unique attractions and recreational opportunities they offer. As the Wisconsin State Senator of this area, I wholeheartedly support this legislation and I urge the subcommittee to consider the conservation and economic benefits it will bring to our citizens today and in future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.