

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

We write to express concern over motorized boating restrictions in your “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order (Executive Order 2020-42).

As you know, recreational boating in Michigan has an overall annual economic impact of over \$7.4 billion that supports over 30,000 jobs and over 1,400 businesses within the state. While we applaud your decision to allow public boating facilities to remain open and the use of self-propelled boats like kayaks or canoes, we ask that you consider scaling back the restrictions on motorized boating.

With boating season quickly approaching, we believe that motorized boating can be done safely and responsibly while following social distancing and the CDC’s guidelines and for COVID-19. Michiganders can get on a small motorboat with their family or a personal watercraft and enjoy the outdoors with minimal risk of coming into contact with those outside their home.

Recreational boating plays a key role in our local economies and banning motorized access will take a heavy toll. Additionally, we encourage you to engage with stakeholders in the recreational boating community to ensure safe, responsible boating practices as Michigan navigates this crisis.

We appreciate your leadership as we work together to respond to the economic fallout from this pandemic. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



---

Fred Upton  
Member of Congress