

La Crosse, WI  
August 28, 2008

La Pointe Town Board  
P O Box 270  
La Pointe, WI 54850

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to provide you with my input and concerns regarding the proposed zoning ordinance changes which are to be discussed at a public hearing at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 3, 2008. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend that hearing. I understand that I can provide you with these written statements in advance of that meeting, and I respectfully ask that my input is considered carefully.

My primary residence is in La Crosse, Wisconsin. For almost two decades now, my wife and I have maintained a home on Madeline Island also. We are on the Island as much as our schedules will allow, during all four seasons, and we have enjoyed doing everything possible to assimilate ourselves well into the local culture and environment. We support and respect the important work done by the Town Board. At the same time however, we fear for the preservation of this unique and potentially fragile environment.

As I understand the proposed changes, guest house rentals will be permitted in most zoning areas. In addition, I understand that multi-family buildings will now be authorized in the S-1 zone. For the good of the entire Island and all who enjoy it, I fear that these changes will result in a very negative impact upon the environment.

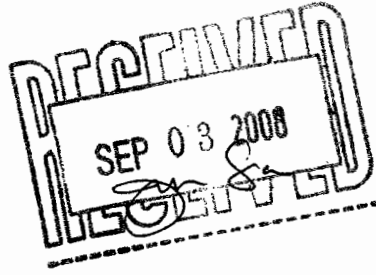
I suspect that some of these proposed zoning changes may be motivated out of a well-intended goal of supporting the Island's economy. This will only backfire however, harming directly the very region that all of us cherish. Gaylord Nelson, the founder of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, spoke to that very point already, stating, "The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the other way around".

Thank you for your serious consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

*Dan Harbin*

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TOWN OF LA POINTE