



P.O. Box 274
Gananoque, ON Canada K7G 2T8

P.O. Box 616
Clayton, NY USA 13624

www.thousandislandsassociation.com
thousandislandsassociation@gmail.com

March 22, 2022

John P Petrilla
Environmental Branch Chief, Acting
Border Patrol & Air and Marine PMO
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Sent via email: BPAMNEPA@cbp.dhs.gov

Dear Mr Petrilla,

The Thousand Islands Association would like to add our name to a long list of environmental organizations and individuals who have expressed opposition to the proposed CBP station on Blind Bay.

This new facility would have enormous detrimental impact on aquatic life, life that these organizations have spent decades trying to protect and help revitalize. While our organization focuses mainly on issues on the Canadian side of the river, we share a river where wildlife obviously sees no border. It's important that we all unite in keeping this region environmentally healthy.

In a time where we can easily follow the science, it seems incredibly reckless to ignore the obvious. This massive CBP station would decimate the wildlife in the area for reasons already stated and those identified in this excerpt from a letter from Save The River:

“Blind Bay has open and protected wetland areas. It has served as a long-term aquatic habitat research site monitored by the Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS). Blind Bay has been one of the most prolific muskellunge spawning areas in the region and has been monitored since 1990. St. Lawrence River muskellunge have experienced a significant and recent decline due to losses associated with viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS). Maintenance of high quality spawning and nursery habitat is critical to ensuring population recovery and sustainability. Other important fish species at the site are small and largemouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, and bullhead; 53 fish species have been recorded at this location. In 2021, seining conducted by TIBS captured young-of-year muskellunge, northern pike, large and smallmouth bass as well as NYS endangered pugnose shiner. Other NYS Species of Concern and Species of Conservation Need in the Blind Bay record include: American eel; blackchin, blacknose, and bridle shiner; Eastern musk turtle; and map turtle.”

For all the reasons above, plus all those outlined in the enclosed letters from Save The River and Charles M. Tebbutt, the Thousand Islands Association stands opposed to the Blind Bay proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet S. Staples".

Janet Smith-Staples

Chair – Environmental Awareness Committee, Thousand Islands Association

Enclosures: Save The River letter, Charles M. Tebbutt letter

CC: Save The River
Charles M. Tebbutt