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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL RESOURCES

April 16, 2021

Mr. Steve Lawrence Executive Director Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority 1 Bridge Plaza, Suite 102 Ogdensburg, NY 13668

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

I write today regarding the City of Ogdensburg's desire to reopen the former St. Lawrence River Beach just behind the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge plaza. Recently, I was contacted by the City of Ogdensburg, which requested that I add my voice in support of this effort.

As you know, countless City of Ogdensburg residents enjoyed the beach for many years. I myself visited the beach as a child for swimming lessons. Today, during frequent walks on the trail, I walk by the beach and wonder—like many others do—why something that was enjoyed by so many sits unused, with no other family beach in the area.

Because the land sits unused, I would respectfully like to request that the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Board of Directors work with the City to see whether it would be suitable to again reopen the beach. Doing so would provide families, individuals and visitors to our area with increased opportunities to enjoy the St. Lawrence River.

Ogdensburg residents are truly lucky to live alongside the St. Lawrence River; a beautiful natural resource that offers endless opportunities for outdoor recreation and scenic enjoyment. I believe

we should all work together and do all we can to provide local residents, as well as visitors to our community, with increased chances to enjoy this gem of our region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Patty Ritchie State Senator

PAR:svc