

JACK BERGMAN
1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
414 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4735

TRAVERSE CITY OFFICE
1396 DOUGLAS DRIVE, SUITE 22B
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49696
(231) 944-7633

MARQUETTE OFFICE
1500 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 2
MARQUETTE, MI 49855
(906) 273-2227

November 6, 2019

Mr. Robert Wallace
Assistant Secretary
Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Wallace:

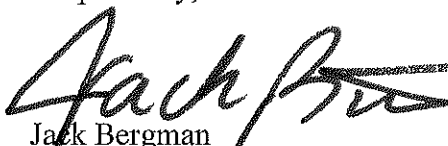
I write to express my concern regarding the lack of effective double-crested cormorant management efforts throughout the United States.

It has been more than three years since a U.S. District Court vacated the long-standing Fish and Wildlife depredation orders for double-crested cormorants. Since then, states like Michigan have witnessed a significant increase in the double-crested cormorant population and are unable to address this growing problem. While the Service has completed an Environmental Assessment for the take of cormorants in aquaculture, our recreational and free-swimming fish areas have not seen any relief. The rising cormorant population has negatively impacted not just our natural resources but also our fish populations. This in turn threatens the livelihood of recreational and commercial fishing industries critical to our local economies.

I acknowledge the Department's efforts to comply with both state and federal laws and regulations; however, our communities' hands have been tied from the federal government's inability to efficiently move forward with the NEPA process. Each day we wait to establish new cormorant depredation orders further damages our local economies and the fish populations for which they rely.

Michigan's First District has been negatively impacted by the lack of effective cormorant management, and I urge your team to move as quickly as possible to bring relief to our communities. Thank you for your prompt attention to address this issue.

Respectfully,


Jack Bergman
Member of Congress