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COMMITTEE ON RULES  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2134 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairman DeFazio,

I write to you regarding recent bipartisan discussions between the President and Congressional leadership on the potential for a nearly \$2 trillion initiative to rebuild and strengthen our nation's infrastructure.

As these conversations progress, I believe it is critically important that any infrastructure initiative advanced by the House of Representatives includes a comprehensive plan to strengthen the resiliency of the Great Lakes coastline and makes significant investments in communities residing on the waterfront.

As you are aware, Great Lakes communities along the shoreline have become increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events due to the combined influence of increased seasonal rain and coastal storms which are resulting in a historic rise in lake water levels and unprecedented flooding.

My district includes approximately 100 miles of the shoreline that fronts directly on Lake Ontario or on bays, rivers, and streams that are directly impacted by Lake fluctuations. It is just one of the many communities along Lake Ontario's south shore that were hit hard by historic flooding in 2017. I can speak firsthand to the significant damage caused by these extreme weather events. I witnessed the aftermath of the flooding which left behind in its wake eroded beaches, devastated family homes, and crippled lakeside businesses. Nearly two years later, many of my neighbors are still struggling to recover and rebuild.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
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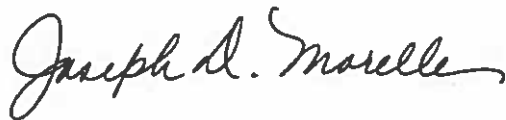
Alarming, my community and many others along Lake Ontario are yet again bracing for the impact of another season of significant flooding due to high lake water levels. And communities across the Great Lakes are now recognizing that the next significant flooding event or lake-related natural disaster is not a matter of if, but when.

The bottom line is that we can no longer afford to wait and react. The increasing frequency of these historic flooding events dictates that we must develop a comprehensive plan that identifies the risks and vulnerabilities along our shorelines, accounts for the impact of a changing climate, and makes essential investments that will strengthen the resiliency of our coastal communities. This must be a thoughtful plan that acknowledges the long term nature of this problem.

The current infrastructure discussions present us with a unique and timely opportunity to address this urgent matter and ensure the long-term safety and security of our neighbors on the waterfront.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and I look forward to working in partnership with you and our colleagues in the House to protect our Great Lakes communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Morelle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph Morelle  
Member of Congress