



Modernizing the Soo Locks: Progress Report *U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow*

Vital to Our Economy and Security

The Soo Locks are a crucial gateway for Great Lakes freighters carrying agricultural products and materials our manufacturers and military depend on. And they are badly in need of modernization.

There have been no comprehensive improvements to the Locks in nearly 50 years. Meanwhile, around 80 million tons of iron ore, coal, stone, grain, and other commercial commodities pass through the locks annually. A report by the Department of Homeland Security concluded that no other single piece of infrastructure is more consequential in terms of impact to the economy from an unexpected and sustained breakdown. Even a temporary failure of the locks would have devastating consequences for our economy and national security.

Progress Report

From authoring the legislation giving Congress the authority to fund a new lock, to building bipartisan momentum, to securing major funding commitments, Senator Stabenow has made the building of a new lock a personal priority of hers.

- Senator Stabenow authored language in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act **eliminating the requirement that Michigan pay for part of a new lock and requiring 100% federal funding.**
- In 2015, Senator Stabenow requested **a study and a report that led the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize the Soo Locks project.**
- In 2017, Senator Stabenow led a **bipartisan Congressional delegation** on a tour of the Soo Locks. The tour highlighted the importance of the Locks to our state's and nation's economy and national security and the urgent need for modernization.

- In 2018, Senator Stabenow’s **Soo Locks Modernization Act** was signed into law as part of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. The legislation **authorized Congress to provide the necessary funding to build another Poe-sized lock.**
- Through significant bipartisan efforts, Congress appropriated **\$125 million** in FY20 and **\$170 million** in FY21 toward completion of the project.

Next Steps

A renewed focus in Congress on funding our nation’s infrastructure offers new opportunities for progress in finishing a new lock. **Over the next five years, the Army Corps is slated to receive record amounts of funding for Great Lakes projects championed by Senator Stabenow:**

- The Senate-passed bipartisan **infrastructure package includes \$11.65 billion** for Army Corps construction projects – including the Soo Locks.
- President Biden’s FY 2022 budget request – along with the Senate and House Energy and Water appropriations bills – includes **\$480 million** for modernizing the Soo Locks. **This is one of the largest amounts ever budgeted for a single Army Corps construction project in one year.**

This spring, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began work on Phase 1 to deepen and widen the upstream approach, and Phase 2 to strengthen the upstream approach walls. This substantial investment in the project will ensure that there is no delay in transitioning to Phase 3 in the coming year, and gets us closer than ever to making the modernized Soo Lock a reality.