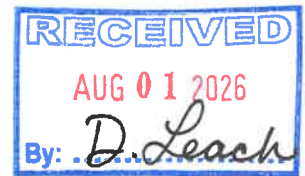




**Mackinac Island
Cottagers Association**
Established 1962



July 28, 2026

Mayor Margaret Doud
7358 Market Street
Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757

Dear Mayor Doud,

In a brief conversation with you and another council member recently, I mentioned that the Mackinac Island Cottagers Association was having its opening meeting at the end of June. Because you have interacted with the Association in the past and know of its makeup, it was suggested that the members have a discussion regarding the current negotiations between the City and the ferry companies and more specifically, provide to the City suggestions of things the membership believed to be important to residents of Mackinac Island and that should be included in the negotiations.

Obviously, none of the members of the Cottagers Association have been deeply involved in the negotiations. As such, the discussion had during the meeting was based solely on the perspective of residents, both seasonal or year-round, and not business owners or government officials.

While there was much discussion, the overwhelming sentiment was the hope that the owners of the ferry companies understand that it is the residents who represent a significant contribution to the economy and infrastructure of the island through business use and tax payments. And since these residents represent only a tiny fraction of the number of ferry riders compared to the hundreds of thousands of non-residents, it is reasonable for the ferry companies to extend more benefits to residents. Items suggested during our discussions include reduced parking rates, passes for residents in homes in trust, passes and favorable parking rates for family members, and broader hours for winter boats. With today's technology like the use of QR codes that Hoffman has already implemented, all of these items should be easy to administer.

The opinions of residents in the Cottagers Association likely echo those of other residents on the island. I hope this input will be helpful in future negotiations with ferry ownership.

With kind regards,

Vicki Riel
President, Mackinac Island Cottagers Association