

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
B308 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to respectfully request that you provide \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Great Lakes are the largest system of fresh surface water in the world and a unique natural resource. The Lakes provide drinking water for nearly 40 million people, and are also an economic driver that supports jobs, commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism.

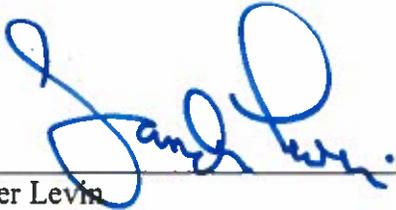
More than a century of environmental damage has taken a significant toll on the Great Lakes, which the GLRI is helping to correct. Since the initiative was launched in 2010, GLRI funds have been used to support over 2900 restoration projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitat, clean up environmentally-impaired Areas of Concern, fight invasive species, and prevent beach closings.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is showing real and measurable results, but there is still a great deal of work to do. For example, during its first six years, the GLRI has prioritized the cleanup of Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) resulting in three U.S. AOCs being delisted (Presque Isle, Deer Lake, White Lake) and restoration work being completed at four more (Sheboygan, Ashtabula, Waukegan and St. Clair). Notwithstanding this significant progress, there are still 24 U.S. AOCs that require significant attention.

We urge you to continue this vital investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes. The \$300 million we are requesting for this program is equal to the funding provided in the FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act and also is in line with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act authorization legislation being considered in both the House and Senate.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



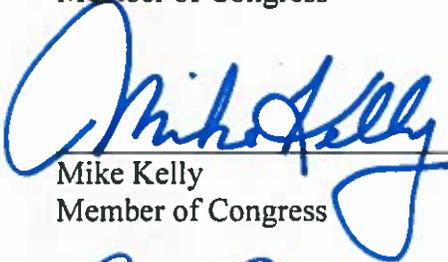
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



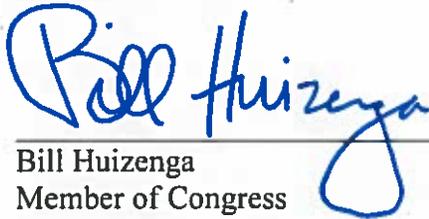
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



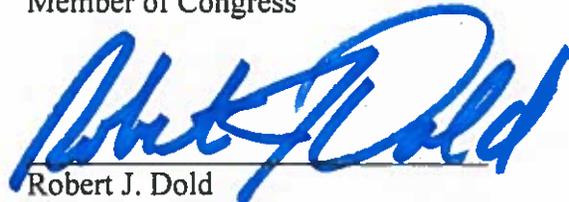
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



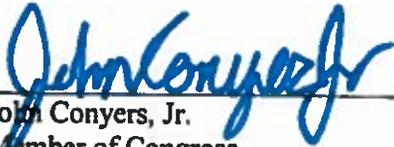
Robert J. Dold
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Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



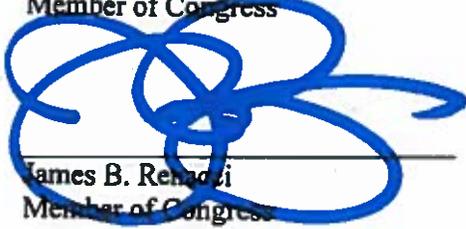
Matt Cartwright
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Glenn 'G.T.' Thompson
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Rick Nolan
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James B. Renacci
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Paul Tonko
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Janice D. Schakowsky
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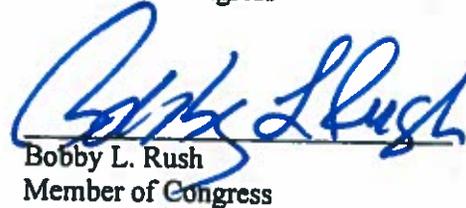
Sheila Jackson Lee
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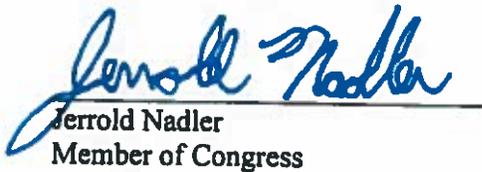
Candice S. Miller
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Mike Quigley
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Bobby L. Rush
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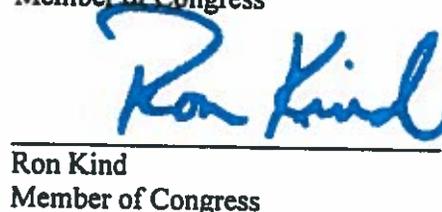
Jerrold Nadler
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Ron Kind
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Bob Gibbs
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Luis V. Gutiérrez
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Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
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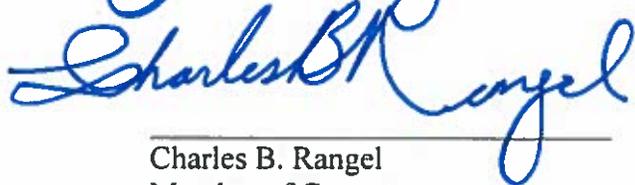
John Moolenaar
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Joyce Beatty
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Chris Collins
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Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



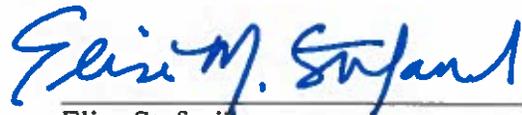
Dave Trott
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



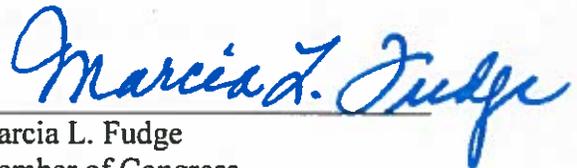
Danny Davis
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



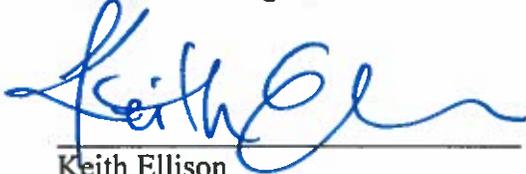
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Tim Walz
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André Carson
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Reid J. Ribble
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Grace Meng
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Glenn Grothman
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Tammy Duckworth
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Donald Payne, Jr.
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