

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President

We write to express our strong support for efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Specifically, we respectfully request that you include \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget request.

The Great Lakes are truly a national treasure. The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world, holding roughly 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply and 90 percent of the United States' fresh water supply. The Lakes are also an economic driver that supports jobs, commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism for millions of people across the country.

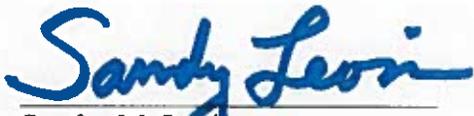
More than a century of environmental damage has taken a significant toll on the Great Lakes, which the GLRI is helping to correct. Since the initiative was launched in 2010, GLRI funds have been used to support over 3,000 restoration projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitat, 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. The Great Lakes Basin is vulnerable to various pollutants and invasive species, which threaten the health of the Great Lakes. For example, in 2014 a toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie forced 400,000 residents in the Toledo area to go without home water service for three days. While the GLRI has prioritized monitoring efforts, which help drinking water treatment plant operators and beach managers minimize health impacts associated with these toxic algal blooms, more must be done to better understand and prevent these algal blooms in the future.

The federal government commits significant resources each year to address the challenges the Great Lakes face. In particular, GLRI resources have supplemented agency budgets to fund coordinated efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, and we must ensure that this important work continues. To that end, we urge you to include \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you and your Administration on this matter.

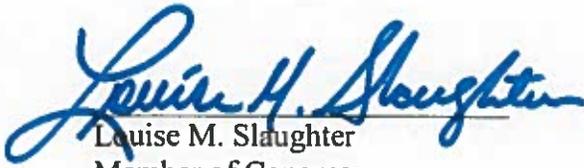
Sincerely,



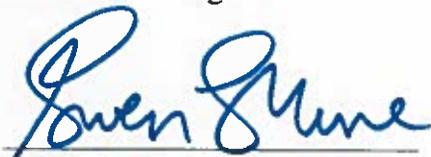
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



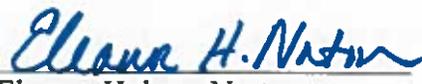
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Richard Nolan
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



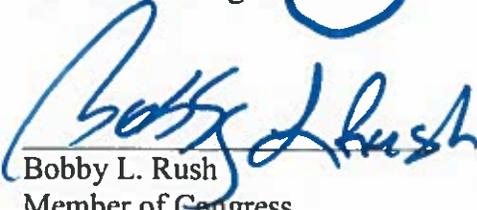
Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



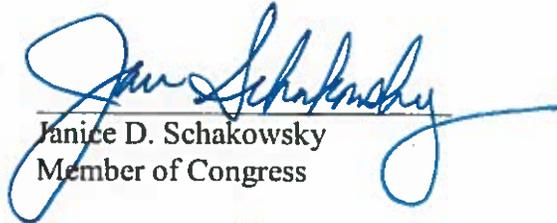
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



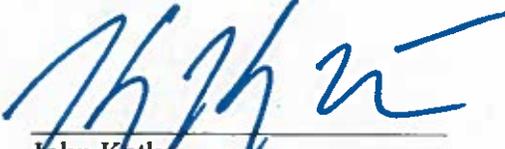
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



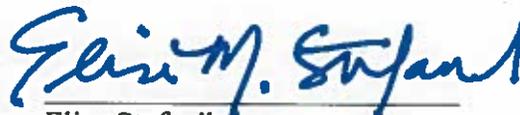
John Katko
Member of Congress



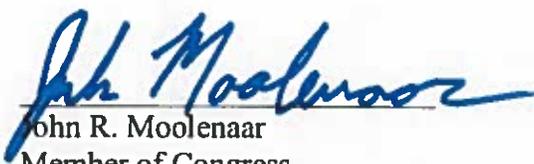
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



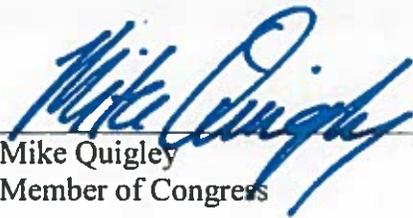
Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



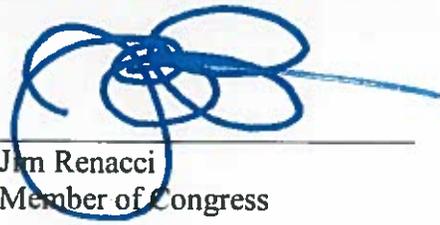
John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



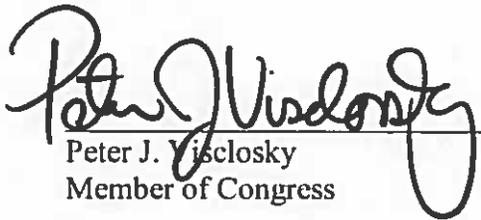
Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Dave Trout
Member of Congress



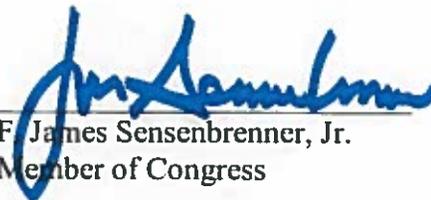
Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress