

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 25, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to express our strong support for efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. In particular, we respectfully request that you include \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

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

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is showing real and measurable results. Since the GLRI was launched in 2010, GLRI funds have been used to support over 2500 restoration projects to improve water quality, protect and restore habitat, clean up toxic areas of concern, fight invasive species, and prevent beach closings.

The federal government has committed enormous resources to help restore the health of the Great Lakes, including a significant investment in GLRI. It is important to underscore that the GLRI funds are being deployed with all deliberate speed. A recent audit of the program by the General Accountability Office (GAO) found “nearly all of the \$1.68 billion of federal funds made available for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 had been allocated as of January 2015. Of the \$1.66 billion allocated, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the other Task Force agencies expended \$1.15 billion for 2,123 projects.”

There is still a great deal of work to do. For example, during its first 6 years, GLRI has prioritized the cleanup of Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs). While significant progress has been made and a number of AOCs have been delisted, there are still 27 AOCs that require further attention.

We strongly believe that Great Lakes restoration must remain a priority. To that end, in developing the FY 2017 budget request, we urge you to join us in supporting \$300 million for this important effort.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



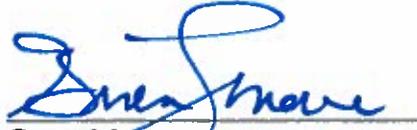
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Gwen Moore  
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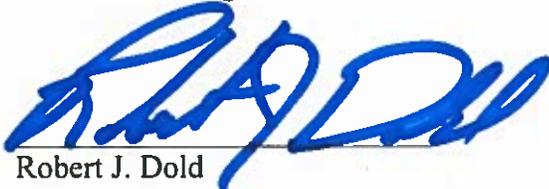
Jackie Walorski  
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Mark Pocan  
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Tim Ryan  
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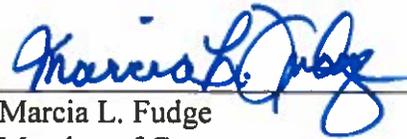
Robert J. Dold  
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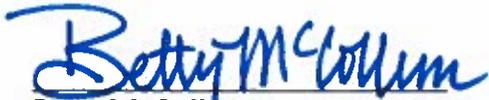
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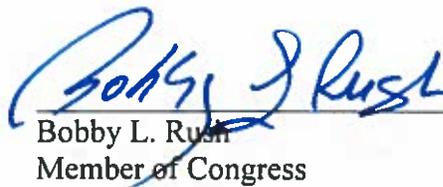
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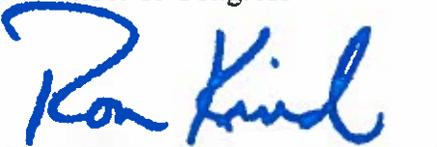
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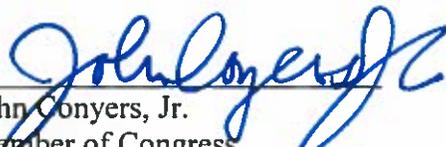
  
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Ron Kind  
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James B. Renacci  
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Reid J. Ribble  
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John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

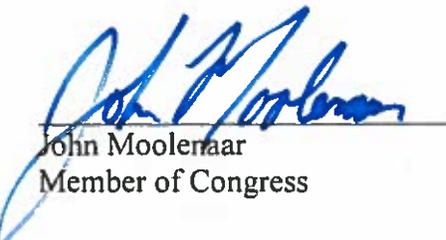
  
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