



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2013

Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H307 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-146 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Lowey, and Ranking Member Shelby:

We are writing to express our strong support for efforts to protect the Great Lakes. As you work to finalize the funding bills for Fiscal Year 2014, we ask that you include \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

The Great Lakes are a unique and invaluable national treasure that must be protected and restored. The Lakes are the world's largest system of fresh surface water, providing drinking water for more than 30 million Americans. They are also an invaluable environmental and economic resource that produce immeasurable benefits for the region and the nation. The Great Lakes support 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages each year. The Great Lakes fishery alone is valued at \$7 billion a year. The Lakes also support commerce, agriculture, transportation and tourism, and are home to over 3500 species of plants and animals.

At the same time, the Lakes have struggled with invasive species, toxic chemical contamination, habitat loss, and beach closures. We must do everything we can to protect the Great Lakes and combat these clear and present threats.

Neither the House nor Senate has passed the 2014 Interior/EPA appropriations bill. The bill under consideration by the House Appropriations Committee currently provides \$210 million for GLRI, a 26 percent cut from the current funding level. The Senate Appropriations Committee mark calls for \$300 million, the same as the Obama Administration's budget request for the program. We understand that resources are tight this year, but we believe protection of the Great

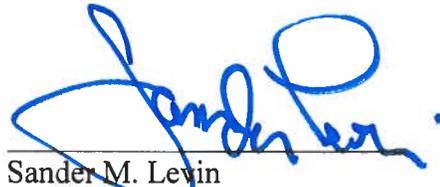
Lakes must remain a priority, and respectfully request that you provide \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



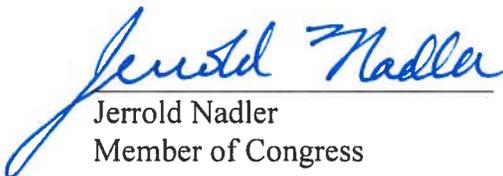
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Richard M. Noran
Member of Congress



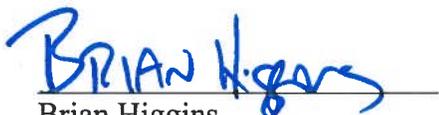
Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



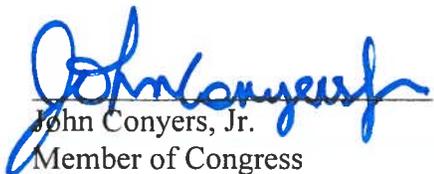
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



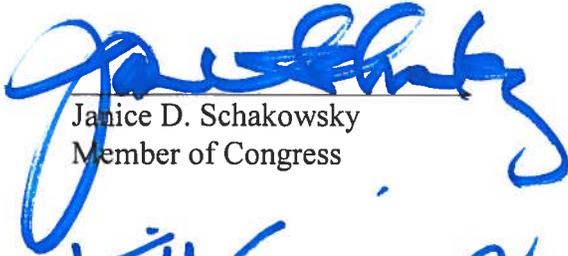
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



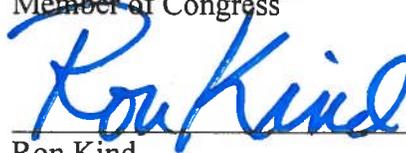
Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress