

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran,

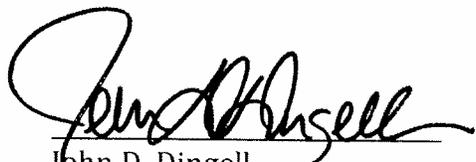
As members of the House Great Lakes Task Force who support a strong, healthy and productive Great Lakes region, we respectfully request that you provide \$300 million in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2013 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill. The GLRI is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades and works to protect, restore, and maintain the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The Great Lakes are a unique and invaluable national treasure that produce immeasurable benefits for the region and nation overall. The lakes hold 95 percent of our nation's supply of fresh water, provide drinking water for 30 million Americans, and produce substantial economic benefits for the region. It is estimated that 1.5 million jobs are directly connected to the Great Lakes, generating \$62 billion in wages each year. The region is also responsible for approximately 27 percent of our nation's gross domestic product (GDP) and 24 percent of U.S. exports annually.

Yet, in recent years, the lakes have struggled with invasive species, nonpoint source pollution, toxic chemical contamination and a declining ecosystem that threatens public health, recreational and tourism industries and overall economic growth. Restoring the Great Lakes is a critical component of our nation's strategy to grow our economy while promoting environmental responsibility.

We urge you to support this sensible and productive investment in the economic and environmental health of the eight-state Great Lakes region.

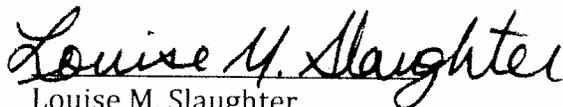
Sincerely,



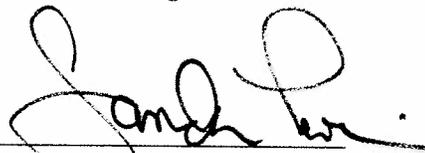
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



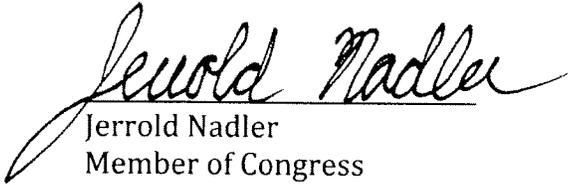
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



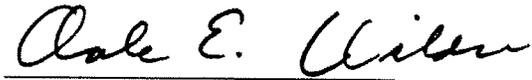
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



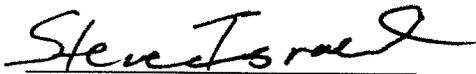
Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress



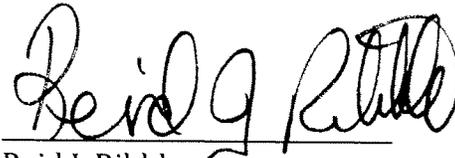
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



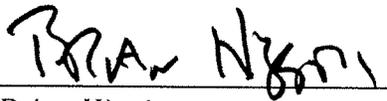
Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress



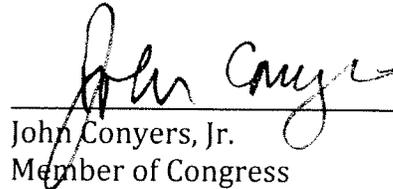
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



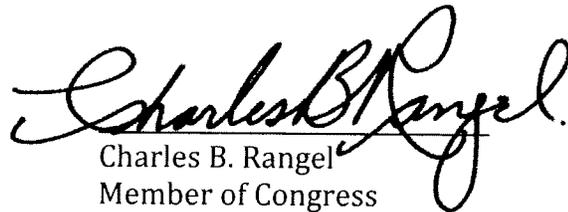
Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



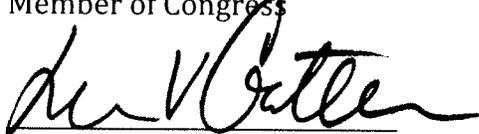
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



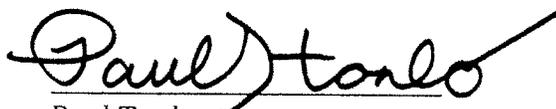
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



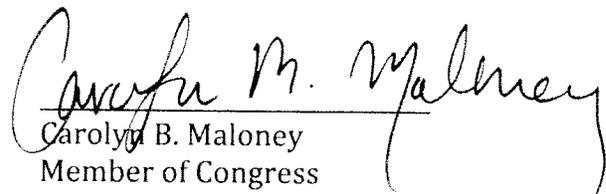
Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



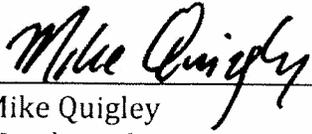
William L. Owens
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



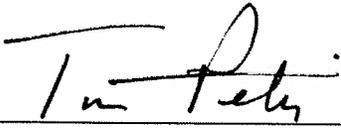
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



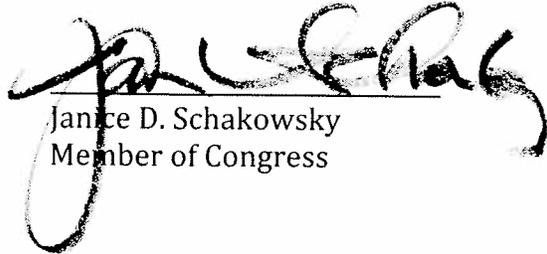
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



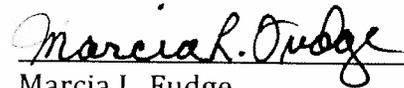
Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



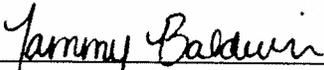
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



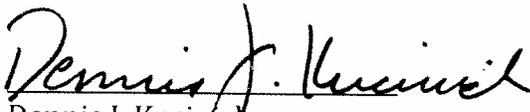
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



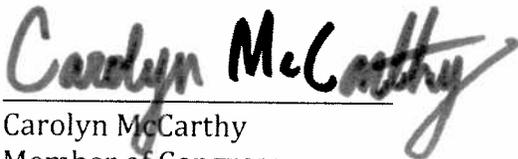
Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



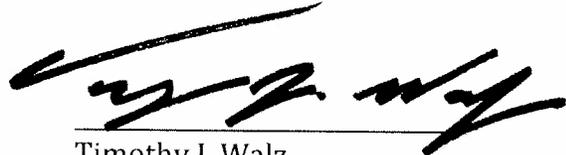
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



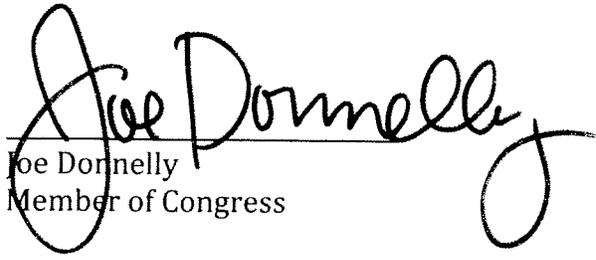
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress