



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST HOUSE COALITION

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

March 18, 2015

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As members of the Great Lakes delegation, we are writing to inform the Subcommittee that we are united in carefully monitoring programs that are integral to the Great Lakes environment and waterborne commerce. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 appropriations bill, we write to share our commitment to programs within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that protect our economic and environmental health, including fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes. In particular, we will carefully monitor the following programs:

- **Necessary Asian Carp Control and other aquatic nuisance species activities**, including emergency authority provided through the Water Resources and Reform Development Act of 2014, the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal barrier funding (authorized through Section 3061 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007), and the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (authorized through Section 3061(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007);
- **Navigation Maintenance and Operation activities** as authorized through the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and as amended, and funding for “additional projects” as authorized through the FY 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations measures;
- **Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration** as authorized through Section 506 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000;
- **Great Lakes Tributary Model program** as authorized through Section 516(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996; and

- **Great Lakes Remedial Action Plan and Sediment Remediation** as authorized through Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990.

The program work carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is of critical importance to the national economy. As you know, the Great Lakes are a unique natural system of global economic and environmental significance. It provides the world's largest system of fresh surface water, supplying drinking water for more than 30 million Americans; supports over 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages each year; and is home to over 3,500 species of plants and animals. These core programs support the movement of 145 million tons of commodities each year, in addition to addressing the region's struggles with invasive species, toxic chemical contamination, habitat loss, and beach closures. The missions of the Great Lakes programs are closely and integrally linked such that one agency's programmatic activities and funding will have ramifications for other agencies' programs success.

We urge the Subcommittee to carefully review these programs and thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions, please contact Samuel Breene, Legislative Director of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, at 226-6106 or samuel.breene@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,



Candice Miller
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Republican Co-Chair

Louise M. Slaughter
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