



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

November 1, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
B-308, Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Simpson and Ranking Members Dicks and Moran:

As Members of Congress who support investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes region, we respectfully request that you include sustained funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as you finalize the Fiscal Year 2012 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill.

The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth and hold 90 percent of our nation's supply of fresh surface water. The lakes provide invaluable recreational opportunities and support shipping, fishing, boating and tourism industries that generate 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages. Restoring the Great Lakes advances our regional strategy to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources and waterfront communities.

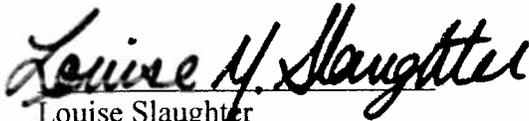
The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades and provides critical funding to programs that clean up contaminated sediments, improve water quality, combat invasive species, protect watersheds from polluted run-off, and restore wetlands and other valuable habitats in the Great Lakes. The GLRI is supporting implementation of a comprehensive, bipartisan restoration strategy that is broadly endorsed by the Great Lakes states, cities, tribes, conservation groups, and business and industry.

We realize that budget resources are tight this year; however, we urge you to make Great Lakes restoration a funding priority. During the recent consideration of the Interior-Environment funding bill in the House, a bipartisan majority of House members supported the LaTourette

amendment to increase funding for the GLRI to \$300 million, which is still \$50 million below the President's request for this program.

Sustained funding for the GLRI in Fiscal Year 2012 will encourage continued investments and help ensure the success of this important restoration program. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

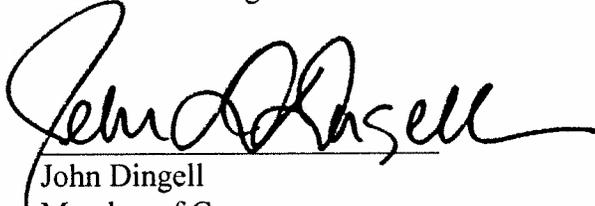
Sincerely,



Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Sandet Levin  
Member of Congress



John Dingell  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



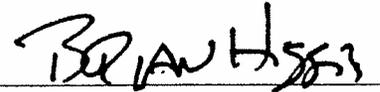
Hansen Clarke  
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



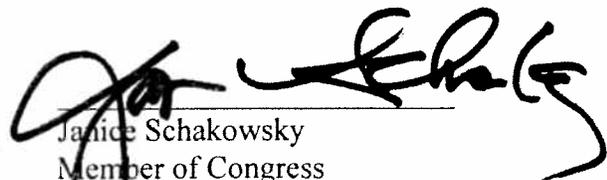
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



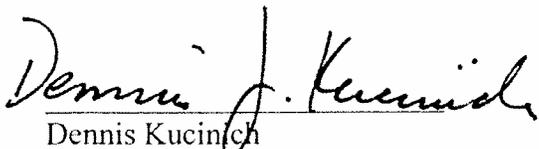
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



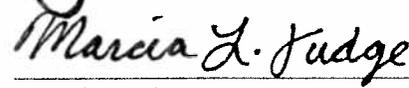
Robert Dold  
Member of Congress



Janice Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



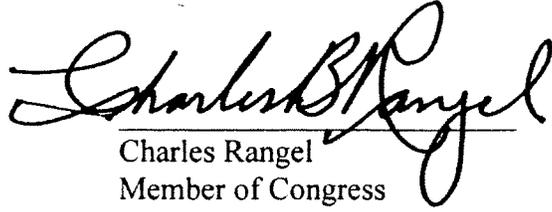
Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress



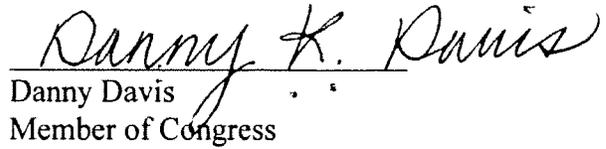
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



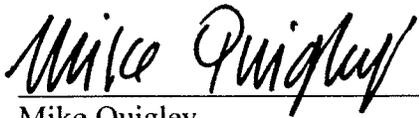
Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



Gary Peters  
Member of Congress



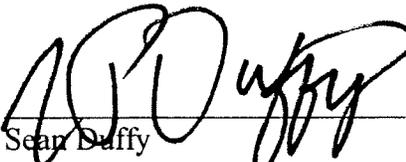
Danny Davis  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



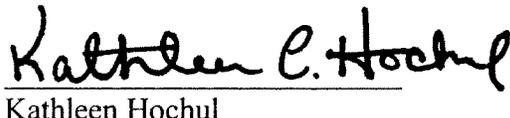
Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



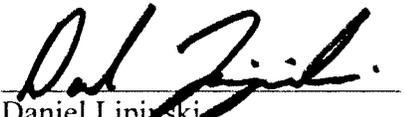
Bill Owens  
Member of Congress



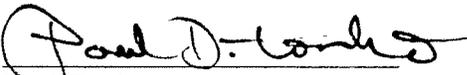
Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress



Kathleen Hochul  
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress