

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
2256 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to respectfully request that you provide \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Great Lakes are truly a national treasure. The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world, holding roughly 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply and 90 percent of the United States' fresh water supply. The Lakes are also an economic driver that supports jobs, commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism for millions of people across the country.

More than a century of environmental damage has taken a significant toll on the Great Lakes, which the GLRI is helping to correct. Since the initiative was launched in 2010, GLRI funds have been used to support over 3,000 restoration projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitat, clean up environmentally-impaired Areas of Concern, fight invasive species, and prevent beach closings.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is showing real and measurable results, but there is still a great deal of work to do. The Great Lakes Basin is vulnerable to various pollutants and invasive species, which threaten the health of the Great Lakes. For example, in 2014 a toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie forced 400,000 residents in the Toledo area to go without home water service for three days. While the GLRI has prioritized monitoring efforts, which help drinking water treatment plant operators and beach managers minimize health impacts associated with these toxic algal blooms, more must be done to better understand and prevent these algal blooms in the future.

The federal government commits significant resources each year to address the challenges the Great Lakes face. In particular, GLRI resources have supplemented agency budgets to fund coordinated efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, and we must ensure that this important work continues. Halting this commitment would reverse years of progress, dramatically reduce the GLRI's impact, and jeopardize the environmental and economic health of the region.

To that end, we urge you to continue this vital investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes by including \$300 million for the GLRI in the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

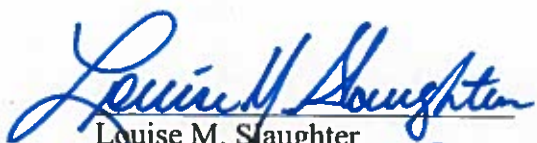
Sincerely,



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



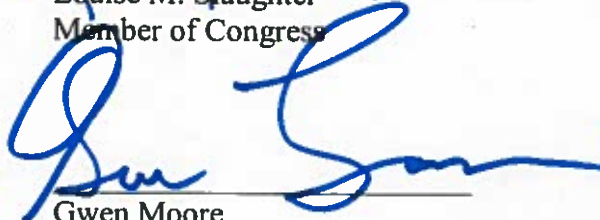
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



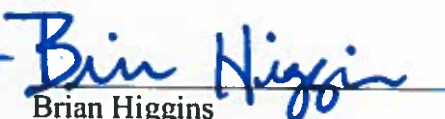
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



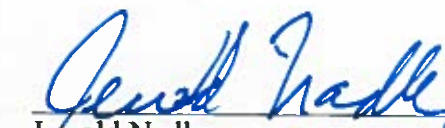
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Ron Kind

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lujan

Daniel W. Lujan
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci

Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison

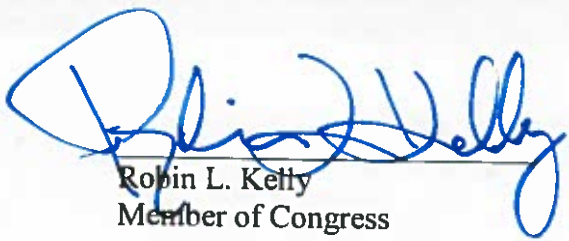
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

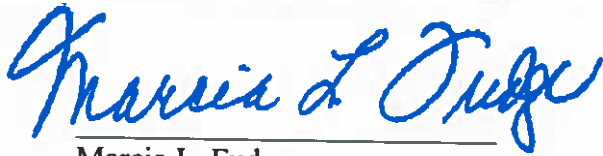
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Nydia Velázquez


Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

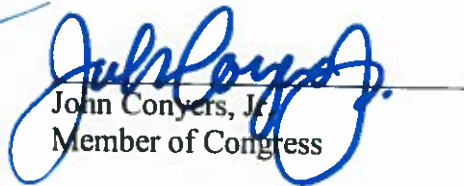

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

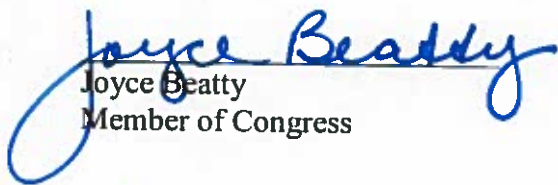

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Mike Bishop
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

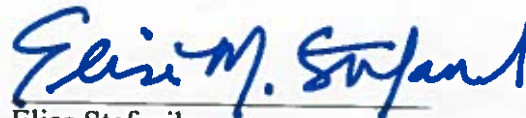

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress


Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

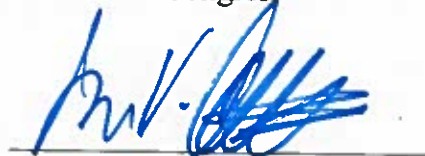

Tim Walz
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress


Dave Loefer
Member of Congress


Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



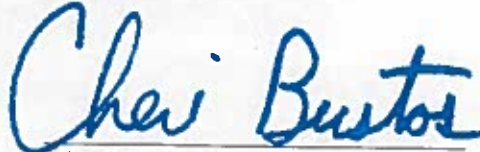
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



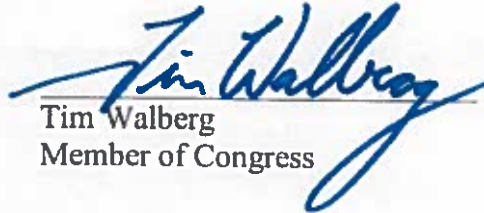
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Thomas Suozzi
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress




Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress


Fred Upton
Member of Congress