



# Great Lakes Legislative Review

June 1, 2018 | 9 am CDT/10 am EDT



**GREAT LAKES  
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS**



**MIDWEST**

# Housekeeping

- This event is being recorded. The recording will be available later today at [www.greatlakeslegislators.org](http://www.greatlakeslegislators.org)
- To reduce noise on the phone lines, all participants will be in “listen-only” mode during the presentations.
- There will be time for questions after the presentations.
  - Click on the “raise hand” icon in the webinar console, or
  - Type questions using the “questions” pane in the webinar console.
- If you wish to speak, you must enter the audio PIN.

# Agenda

## **Welcome and Introductions**

*Senator Darwin Booher (Michigan), Chair, Great Lakes Legislative Caucus*

## **Featured Presentations**

Federal Legislative Update

*Matthew McKenna, Director of the Great Lakes Program, Northeast-Midwest Institute*

Regional Roundtable: Legislative Activities in the Great Lakes States and Provinces

## **Business Session**

- Strategic Planning Update
- 2018 Election
- GLLC 2018 Annual Meeting
- Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Policy Institute

## **Adjourn**

# About the GLLC

- The GLLC is a binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from the Great Lakes region.
  - Eight U.S. states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin
  - Two Canadian provinces: Ontario and Québec
- The Caucus has three primary goals:
  - Facilitate the regional exchange of ideas and information on key Great Lakes issues;
  - Strengthen the role of state and provincial legislators in the policymaking process; and
  - Promote the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes.

# In Memoriam



**Patricia L. Birkholz, 1944 – 2018**

# Featured Speaker

## **Matthew McKenna**

Director

Great Lakes Washington Program

Northeast-Midwest Institute

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# Federal Legislative Update

Matthew McKenna  
Director, Great Lakes Washington Program  
June 1, 2018

# FY 2018 Omnibus Bill

Congress passed a \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill that included all twelve annual appropriates bills:

- \$8.821 billion for EPA (+\$763 from FY17)
- \$300 million for GLRI
- \$1.693 billion for the Clean Water SRF (+\$300 million from FY17)
- \$1.163 billion for the Safe Drinking Water SRF (+300 million from FY17)
- \$63 million for WIFIA grants (+\$53 million from FY17)
- \$425 for the LWCF (+\$25 million from FY17)
- \$50 million for three new grant programs targeting lead in drinking water
- \$1.85 million for the GLMRIS
- \$16.7 million for the electric fish barrier
- Language urging the USACE to make every effort to finish the Brandon Road feasibility study by Feb. 2019



# President's Recession Package

The package includes **\$15.4 billion** of spending cuts across 10 federal departments.

- \$4.3 billion from the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program (DOE)
- \$6.96 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Program (HHS)
- \$800 million from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (HHS)
- \$10 million from the Environmental Protection Agency
- \$148 million from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA)
- \$656 million from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)
- \$42 million from the Rural Housing Service (USDA)
- \$50 million from the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (USDA)
- \$50.2 million from the Rural Utilities Service (USDA)
- \$16 million from the Forest Service (USDA)



# Upcoming Dates to Watch

- July 30 – Sept. 3 – House Summer Recess
- July 31 – Expiration of National Flood Insurance Program Authorization
- Aug. 4 – Sept. 3 – Senate Summer Recess
- Sept. 30 – Expiration of Several Key Programs:
  - FY 2018 Ends
  - Federal Aviation Administration
  - Farm Bill
  - VAWA Domestic Violence Programs
  - Emergency Health Preparedness Authorities
- Oct. 1 – FY 2019 Begins
- Oct. 15 – Nov. 12 – House Election Recess
- Oct. 27 – Nov. 12 – Senate Election Recess
- Nov. 6 – Election Day
- Nov. 30 – Start of Lame-Duck Session (House target adjournment is Dec. 13 & and the Senate target adjournment is Dec. 14)

# Key Upcoming Legislation

- FY19 Appropriations Bills
- Farm Bill
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
- Immigration
- FAA Authorization
- NDAA
- Flood Insurance

# FY 2019 Appropriations 302(b) Allocations (in thousands)

Bill	Senate	House
Ag	\$23,235	\$23,273
CJS	\$62,995	\$62,520
Defense	\$607,130	\$606,512
E&W	\$43,766	\$44,700
Financial Services	\$23,688	\$23,423
Homeland Security	\$48,334	\$52,541
Interior, EPA	\$35,853	\$35,252
Labor-HHS-Ed	\$179,288	\$177,100
Legislative Branch	\$4,790	\$3,811
Military Construction	\$97,086	\$96,920
State, Foreign Ops	\$46,418	\$46,000
THUD	\$71,417	\$71,800

# Bills Approved by Appropriations Committees

## House

- Agriculture - May 16
- Energy and Water - May 16
- Transportation - May 24
- Interior-EPA (in subcommittee) - May 16
- Financial Services and General Government (in subcommittee) - May 24

## Senate

- Energy and Water - May 24
- Agriculture - May 24

# Farm Bill Timeline

May 18 – Farm bill fails House

- Conservative House Freedom Caucus does not support due to immigration.
- House Democrats do not support due to SNAP reductions and requirements.

June 6 – Senate Agriculture Committee expected to markup bill

- Chairman Pat Roberts said he will introduce a bipartisan bill ahead of the markup (early next week?).

Mid-June – Farm bill could hit Senate floor and the House could reconsider its version

- In 2012 (final bill was not enacted until two years later) the Senate considered more than 60 amendments on the floor, so debate could be lengthy.
- Freedom Caucus has been promised consideration of a conservative immigration measure before another farm bill vote.

July – The two farm bill versions could be ready for a conference committee to reconcile

# House Bill - Cuts Conservation by \$795 Million Over 10 Years

Program	2014 Farm Bill funding/acreage level	2018 House Farm Bill (H.R. 2)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	FY14: \$1.35 billion FY15: \$1.6 billion FY16: \$1.65 billion FY17: \$1.65 billion FY18: \$1.75 billion	FY19: \$2,000,000,000 FY20: \$2,500,000,000 FY21: \$2,750,000,000 FY22: \$2,935,000,000 FY23: \$3,000,000,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combines CSP into EQIP through addition of “stewardship contracts” without retaining comprehensive conservation approach. No more than 50% of EQIP funds can be used for these contracts.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates 60% set aside for livestock in EQIP</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintains minimum 5% for wildlife (now with much more funding in the program)</li> <li>• Caps Conservation Innovation Grants at \$25 million, which is roughly the current spending level</li> <li>• Creates a new “On-farm conservation innovation trial” program and funds it at \$25 million/year</li> </ul>
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	10 million acres/year	Repeals CSP; merges it into EQIP and bumps up EQIP funding over time (see above). Although there is a significant increase in EQIP funding, overall there is a decrease in working lands program funding over the life of the bill.

# House Farm Bill Conservation Title

Program	2014 Farm Bill funding/acreage level	2018 House Farm Bill (H.R. 2)
<b>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</b>	FY14: 27.5 million acres FY15: 26 million acres FY16: 25 million acres FY17: 24 million acres FY18: 24 million acres	FY19: 25 million acres FY20: 26 million acres FY21: 27 million acres FY22: 28 million acres FY23: 29 million acres
<b>Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)</b>	FY14: \$400 million FY15: \$425 million FY16: \$450 million FY17: \$500 million FY18: \$250 million	FY19: \$500 million FY20: \$500 million FY21: \$500 million FY22: \$500 million FY23: \$500 million
<b>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</b>	\$100 million mandatory funding, plus pulls 7% from “donor programs” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35% of funding goes to 8 critical conservation areas</li> <li>• 40% of funding goes to federal pool</li> <li>• 25% to state funding pool</li> </ul>	\$250 million in mandatory funding provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding level is roughly on par with 2018 spending, though given no more transfers from underlying programs authorized funding level decreases.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7% of funding from “donor programs” is eliminated                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not change funding pools</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Improvement Act

Introduced by Senators **Debbie Stabenow** (MI) and **Joni Ernst** (IA), RCPPIA makes changes to expand, strengthen, and improve the RCPP, while focusing on conservation outcomes.

- Eliminates the burdensome requirement that projects must operate through existing USDA conservation programs and abide by their corresponding rules and regulations;
- Provides producers access to financial assistance through streamlined contracts that are tailored specifically to the conservation activities;
- Increases RCPP's resources through methods like raising the percentage of funding contributed from USDA conservation programs from 7% to 20%;
- Simplifies the project application process, providing additional flexibility in partner matching contributions;
- Allocates funding to partners for project outreach and development activities;
- Creates a pilot grant program that allows partners to directly operate conservation projects.

# America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Senate WRDA)

- Increases the authorization level of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by \$30 million in FY19, \$60 million in FY20, and \$90 million in FY21;
- Increases funding for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act by 10 percent for each fiscal year starting in 2019 and ending in 2021;
- Authorizes a Great Lakes Coastal Resilience study to coordinate a strategy and recommend actions to manage and protect the Great Lakes coastline;
- Requires the Army Corps to release the Brandon Road feasibility study by February of 2019;
- Expands the eligible uses of Safe Drinking SRF funds allowing states to use up to 10% of their SRF grants for source water protection; and
- Reauthorizes EPA's sewer overflow grant program at \$225 million for FY19 and FY20.

# House WRDA

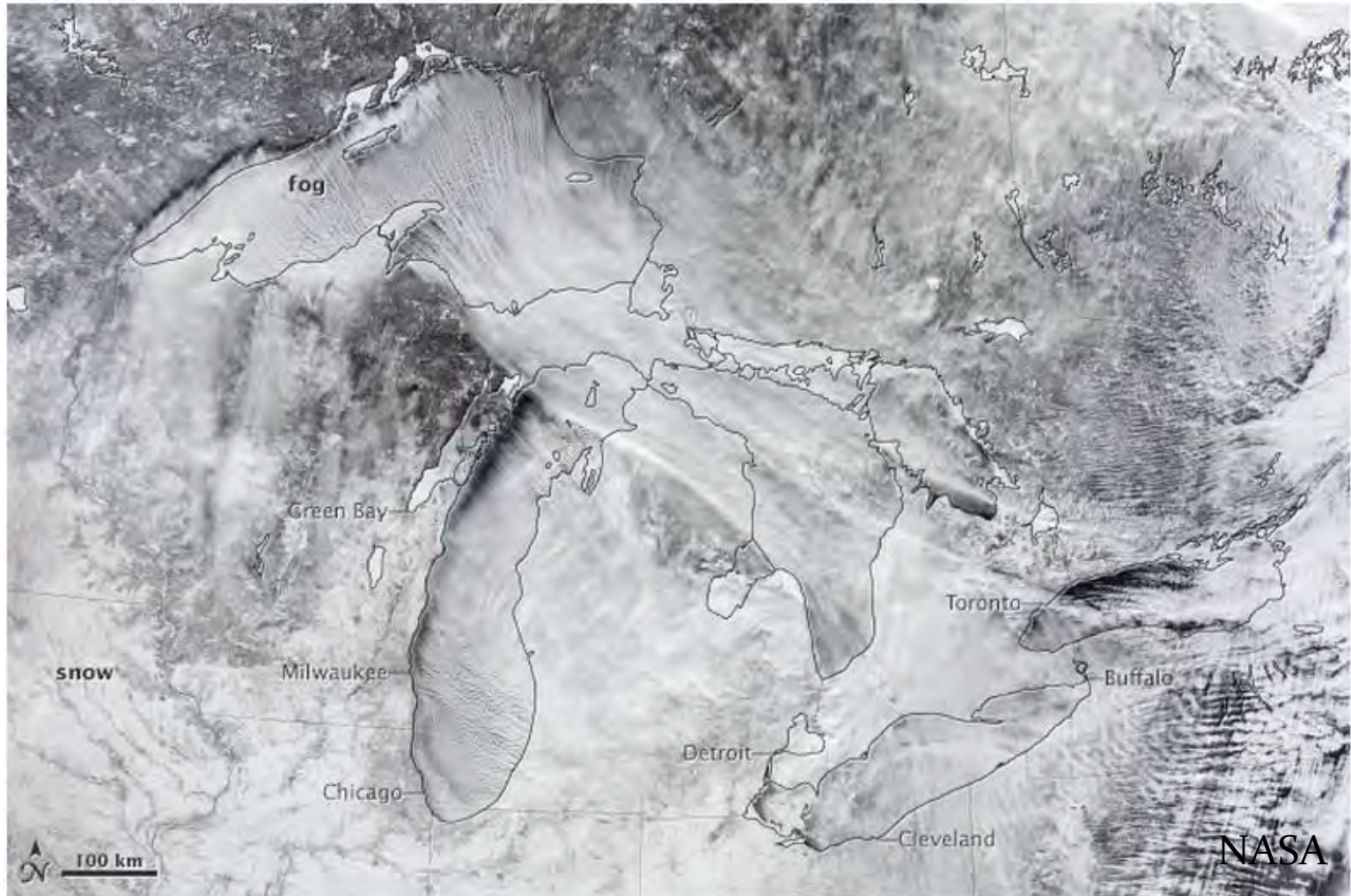
- Unlike the Senate bill, the House bill does not include any Great Lakes specific provisions, nor does it directly address wastewater, drinking water, or storm water. The House bill does permit the full use of HMTF for dredging and harbor maintenance activities, which the Senate does not.
- However, several Great Lakes related amendments have been filed with the Rules Committee as of yesterday\*. They include:
  - An amendment requiring the USACE to complete the Brandon Road Study by Feb. 2019 (Rep. Dave Joyce);
  - An amendment increasing the GLRI Authorization (Rep. Dave Joyce);
  - An amendment expressing the sense of Congress of the importance of a new Soo Lock (Reps. Rick Nolan and Dave Joyce);
  - An amendment adding the Brandon Road study to a list of USACE feasibility studies in the base bill (Rep. Paul Mitchell); and
  - An amendment clarifying that under a Chief's Report, the Brandon Road study is done at an 80/20 Federal/non-Federal share and requiring the USACE following any construction to consult with the governor of the state where the project is located and seek Congressional approval prior to implementing any additional technologies at the project (Rep. Rodney Davis)

*\*These amendments have only been submitted to the Rules Committee. The Committee is scheduled to meet the week of June 4<sup>th</sup> to make in-order amendments.*



# The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA)

- **VIDA Reintroduced in 115<sup>th</sup> Congress**
  - VIDA makes the U.S. Coast Guard the sole regulator of ballast water discharge standards and removes the Clean Water Act's (EPA) jurisdiction over ballast water discharges. Currently both the USCG and EPA regulate ballast water discharges.
  - Senator Roger Wicker introduced S. 168 on 1/17/17 and Congressman Duncan Hunter Jr. introduced H.R. 1154 on 2/16/17.
- **VIDA Language Attached to Senate Coast Guard Authorization**
  - The full Senate failed to gain the 60 votes necessary to move VIDA forward on 4/18 by a vote of 56-40.
  - Numerous Great Lakes Democrats urged their Democratic Colleagues to vote against cloture so that negotiations can continue to try and find a compromise acceptable to all parties.
  - Three Democratic Cosponsors of VIDA voted against



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## **Adjourn**

# Regional Roundtable



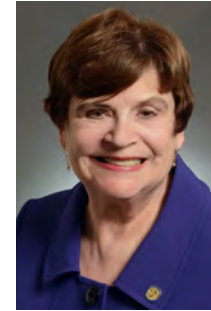
**MNA Guy Ouellette  
Québec**



**Representative  
Dan Ramos  
Ohio**



**Representative  
Jennifer Schultz  
Minnesota**



**Senator Ann Rest  
Minnesota  
Past Chair**



**Representative  
David Maturen  
Michigan**



**Senator Darwin  
Booher  
Michigan  
GLLC Chair**



**Senator Karen  
Tallian  
Indiana**

# Business Session

- Strategic Planning Update
  - The GLLC Executive Committee met in April
  - Three subcommittees are refining the policy agenda, developing a communications plan, and developing a plan for assuring the GLLC's long-term financial stability
  - On September 22, the Strategic Planning process will conclude with the presentation of these plans and the policy agenda to the members
- 2018 Election
  - All 12 seats are up for election, including chair and vice chair
  - A five-member Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for election



# Business Session

- Annual Meeting
  - Registration opens **today** for GLLC members (July 1 for other attendees)
  - Friday, September 21
    - Executive Committee meeting
    - Afternoon site visit featuring the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and the Presque Isle Bay Area of Concern
    - Opening reception
  - Saturday, September 22
    - Presentations on federal initiatives, drinking water laws, green infrastructure, potential impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes
    - Business session (2018 election, resolutions)

# Business Session

- Annual Meeting
  - Travel scholarships will be available
    - Members must apply
    - Applicants will be notified by July 2 of their status
  - Registration will take place through CSG's online member engagement system
  - Watch for email from Lisa Janairo
  - August 27 is the deadline to reserve a room and to register
  - August 27 is the deadline to submit resolutions for consideration
  - #GLLC2018Erie

# Business Session

- Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Policy Institute
  - Pilot of a new biennial event or 20 highly engaged GLLC members
  - “Deep dive” into a single issue
    - Drinking water is the focus of this year’s pilot
  - Travel scholarships will be available
  - Members who express interest when they register for the GLLC meeting will receive a message from Lisa Janairo with more information