



## Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

April 3, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you today as members of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (GLLC), a nonpartisan, binational group of legislators from the eight states and two Canadian provinces that are home to the Great Lakes. **We are dismayed at the proposal in your March 16 Budget Blueprint to eliminate the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This action will significantly damage the economic and environmental well-being of the Great Lakes Region.** The GLRI is absolutely critical to maintaining the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes, which provide 84% of North America's fresh surface water and create millions of family-supporting jobs for Americans and Canadians. **As Great Lakes legislators, we urge you to restore the GLRI and to fund the program at \$300 million annually as authorized by the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2016.**

The value of the Great Lakes as a resource is dependent upon stopping invasive species from entering the lakes and decimating our native species; addressing the conditions contributing to the growth of harmful algal blooms, which make water unsafe for drinking and swimming; and cleaning up sites contaminated by toxic pollutants from this region's industrial legacy. Funding under the GLRI is responsible for three polluted sites in Michigan and Pennsylvania being completely restored, while significant progress has been made at another 13 sites in those states as well as Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and Illinois. These are real, well-documented results of the GLRI. The incredible environmental recovery of the Great Lakes, and the economic benefit to coastal communities that result from this environmental restoration, will **not** continue without the projects enabled by the GLRI. **Simply put, eliminating the GLRI throws the continued economic and environmental viability of the Great Lakes Region into grave jeopardy.** It would also undermine the efforts of both Canada and the United States to meet their commitments, as expressed in the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Eliminating the GLRI also will deal a tremendous blow to strong efforts by state and local governments to protect Great Lakes resources and maintain important wildlife habitats. These programs benefit greatly from the strategic planning and resources provided by the GLRI. Many state and local programs may simply cease to function without the coordination and support of the GLRI, which has enjoyed tremendous support across party lines since its inception. In addition to the overwhelmingly negative impacts on the Great Lakes economy and ecosystem, eliminating funding for the GLRI will cause direct and immediate harm to human health in the Great Lakes Region. A workforce that does not have reliable access to clean, safe drinking water cannot hope to thrive or reach its full potential.

Eliminating GLRI funding will cause massive and lasting damage to the economy and environment of the Great Lakes Region. We, the undersigned legislators, urge you to reconsider and reject a course of action that could undo decades of necessary improvements to North America's most precious natural resource.

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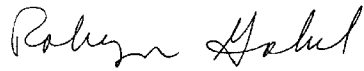
Sincerely,



Representative Cory Mason, Wisconsin  
GLLC Chair



Representative Kelly Burke, Illinois



Representative Robyn Gabel, Illinois



Representative Rita Mayfield, Illinois



Representative Juliana Stratton, Illinois



Senator Karen Tallian, Indiana



Representative B. Patrick Bauer, Indiana



Representative Earl Harris, Indiana



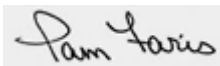
Senator Steve Bieda, Michigan



Senator Ken Horn, Michigan



Senator Rebekah Warren, Michigan



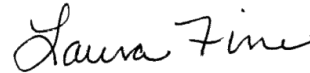
Representative Pam Faris, Michigan



Representative Steve Marino, Michigan



Senator Donne Trotter, Illinois



Representative Laura Fine, Illinois



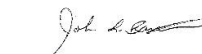
Representative Sonya Marie Harper, Illinois



Representative Elaine Nekritz, Illinois



Senator Ed Charbonneau, Indiana



Representative John Bartlett, Indiana



Representative Carey Hamilton, Indiana



Representative Matt Pierce, Indiana



Senator Goeff Hansen, Michigan



Senator Phillip Pavlov, Michigan



Senator Dale Zorn, Michigan



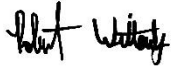
Representative Dan Lauwers, Michigan




Representative David Maturen, Michigan



Representative Andy Schor, Michigan



Representative Robert Wittenberg, Michigan



Senator David Senjem, Minnesota



Representative David Bly, Minnesota

Representative Melissa Hortman, Minnesota

Representative Michael Nelson, Minnesota




Representative JoAnn Ward, Minnesota



Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes,  
New York



Senator Kenny Yuko, Ohio



Representative David Leland, Ohio



Representative Michael Sheehy, Ohio



Representative Curtis Sonney, Pennsylvania



Senator Janet Bewley, Wisconsin



Representative Sam Singh, Michigan



Senator Tony Lourey, Minnesota



Senator Erik Simonson, Minnesota



Representative Alice Hausman, Minnesota



Representative Sandra Masin, Minnesota



Representative Jennifer Schultz, Minnesota



Senator Rich Funke, New York



Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, New York



Representative Stephanie Howse, Ohio



Representative John Patterson, Ohio



Representative Kent Smith, Ohio



Mr. Guy Ouellette, Québec



Senator Chris Larson, Wisconsin

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Representative Jimmy Anderson, Wisconsin



Representative Peter Barca, Wisconsin



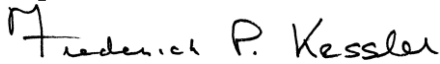
Representative Jill Billings, Wisconsin



Representative Evan Goyke, Wisconsin



Representative Dianne Hesselbein, Wisconsin



Representative Frederick Kessler, Wisconsin



Representative Beth Meyers, Wisconsin



Representative Tod Ohnstad, Wisconsin



Representative Katrina Shankland, Wisconsin



Representative Mark Spreitzer, Wisconsin



Representative Lisa Subeck, Wisconsin



Representative Dana Wachs, Wisconsin



Representative Josh Zepnick, Wisconsin



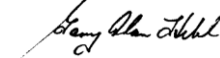
Representative Joan Ballweg, Wisconsin



Representative Terese Berceau, Wisconsin



Representative Eric Genrich, Wisconsin




Representative Gary Hebl, Wisconsin



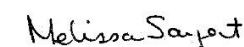
Representative Gordon Hintz, Wisconsin



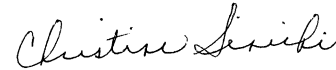
Representative Debra Kolste, Wisconsin



Representative Nick Milroy, Wisconsin



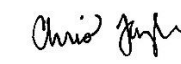
Representative Melissa Sargent, Wisconsin



Representative Christine Sinicki, Wisconsin



Representative Amanda Stuck, Wisconsin



Representative Chris Taylor, Wisconsin



Representative JoCasta Zamarripa, Wisconsin

cc: Congressional delegations from the Great Lakes states