



GREAT LAKES
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MIDWEST

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus | Webinar Series

Great Lakes Policy Update

Friday, March 4

**Hosted by the
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (with staff support from the
Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments)**

About the GLLC

- The GLLC is a binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from the Great Lakes region.
- Organized around the principle of assuring that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River continue to provide a plentiful source of clean, affordable water to the region's residents, businesses, and industries.
- Legislators may enroll at greatlakeslegislators.org.



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Sen. Robyn Gabel
Illinois
Chair



Rep. Jennifer Schultz
Minnesota
Vice Chair

About Today's Web Session



- **Overview of the GLLC's Policy Agenda and Related Developments in the States and Provinces**
- **Great Lakes Policy in Washington, D.C.: Recent Progress and Opportunities for 2022 | Presentation by Marc Smith, Policy Director at the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center**
- **Q & A and Discussion**



Marc Smith

Five-Point Policy Agenda of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus



- 1. Curb nutrient pollution and prevent harmful algal blooms**
- 2. Build climate resiliency in coastal communities**
- 3. Accelerate cleanup of toxic substances and “Areas of Concern”**
- 4. Ensure access to clean water**
- 5. Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species**



Related Developments in Great Lakes States, Provinces

- **New Law in Illinois on Lead, Affordability of Drinking Water**
 - HB 3739 of 2021
- **New Constitutional 'Right to Clean Water' in New York**
 - Legislatively initiated constitutional amendment



Related Developments in Great Lakes States, Provinces

■ Minnesota's Efforts to Control Invasive Species

- **Current budget provides \$14 million over the biennium on projects (water-access inspections, public awareness campaigns, monitoring, etc.) and research to control the spread of invasive species.**
- **Funds the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.**
- **Invests in new partnerships with commercial anglers, new monitoring and removal techniques, and installation of new barriers to address the problem of invasive carp.**



Related Developments in Great Lakes States, Provinces

■ Continuing Efforts to Control Nutrient Pollution

- Expansion of H2Ohio
- New \$25 million pilot project in Michigan
- Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability Program in Ontario



GREAT LAKES POLICY: PROGRESS AND LOOKING FORWARD



Marc Smith

Policy Director

National Wildlife Federation | Great Lakes
Regional Center

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Great Lakes Policy

Progress and Looking Forward



Agenda:

- 1) Great Lakes Accomplishments in 2021**
- 2) Great Lakes Opportunities in 2022**
- 3) New Opportunities at the Regional and State Level**
- 4) Discussion and Questions**

Great Lakes Accomplishments 2021

- **Historic investment in Water Infrastructure**
- **\$1 Billion for GLRI**
- **Brandon Road Project Advances**



Great Lakes Policy Opportunities 2022

- **Great Lakes Restoration Funding**
 - Securing increases to GLRI appropriations
 - Working towards an equitable and community led implementation
- **Invasive Species**
 - Fully funding the Brandon Road Lock & Dam and dedicated invasives programs
 - Implementing strong ballast water regulations
- **Water Infrastructure**
 - Ensuring equitable implementation of the IIJA
 - Securing increased appropriations in resilient and affordable drinking and wastewater infrastructure
- **Clean Water and Wildlife**
 - Farm Bill
 - Waters of the U.S.
 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act
 - PFAS
- **Ohio and Mississippi River Restoration**
- **Climate Resiliency**
 - Fund the implementation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study
 - Build Back Better provisions

Regional and State Opportunities



- **Leveraging Federal \$\$**
 - IJA Implementation
 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act
 - Farm Bill
 - Build Back Better provisions
- **H2Ohio**
- **Water Bond (Ohio)**
- **Recreation Passport (Michigan)**



GREAT LAKES POLICY UPDATE



Thank you for joining us today!

Visit the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus website for a recording of this webinar and to register for future webinars in this series

greatlakeslegislators.org

Upcoming GLLC Web Sessions

Date: Friday, March 11

Time: 11 a.m. Eastern /10 a.m. Central

Topic: Climate Resiliency: New Opportunities for Great Lakes States and Coastal Communities

Date: Friday, March 18

Time: 2 p.m. Eastern /1 p.m. Central

Topic: Plastics in the Great Lakes: An Update on the Science and Discussions on Future Cleanup Efforts