



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Legislative Caucus

2020 Virtual Meetings of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus

September 11-October 9

In Support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- WHEREAS,** the nonpartisan, binational Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) supports the continued bipartisan work of the Great Lakes Region’s Congressional Delegation in its efforts to secure a continuation of funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI); and
- WHEREAS,** clean water is essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy, and a well-functioning ecosystem; and
- WHEREAS,** as the major source of water for communities located within the Great Lakes basin, the Great Lakes system is a vital resource in which the region’s residents all share a common interest; and
- WHEREAS,** a 2018 study by the Great Lakes Commission concluded that, from 2010 to 2016, every dollar of federal spending on GLRI projects ultimately will produce \$3.35 in additional economic output in the Great Lakes states through 2036, with the return on each dollar invested in older industrial cities such as Detroit and Buffalo reaching \$4 or more;¹ and
- WHEREAS,** as stated by Andrew Wheeler, EPA Administrator, “joint efforts” by “11 federal departments, ... states, tribes, municipalities, businesses, citizens’ organizations, academia and other stakeholders within the Great Lakes Basin... have resulted in unprecedented progress in Great Lakes restoration;”² and
- WHEREAS,** GLRI investments in over 4,000 projects covering more than 300,000 square miles have resulted in the delisting of four “Areas of Concern” in the U.S., including most recently the Lower Menominee River shared by Michigan and Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS,** 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; and
- WHEREAS,** continued funding of the GLRI is critical to the economic and environmental viability of the Great Lakes Region and to successfully fulfilling the United States’ commitments expressed in the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; and



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WHEREAS, state, tribal, and local government efforts to protect Great Lakes resources and maintain important wildlife habitats are tied to the availability of federal GLRI funds; and

WHEREAS, the GLLC is organized around the guiding 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; and

WHEREAS, a workforce that does not have reliable access to clean, safe drinking water cannot hope to thrive or reach its full potential; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the GLLC urges Congress to fund the GLRI at no less than \$300 million in federal fiscal year 2021 and \$375 million in federal fiscal year 2022, as proposed in the bipartisan "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020" (S. 3591);³ and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, provincial, and federal officials.

Adopted on October 9, 2020.

¹ <https://www.glc.org/wp-content/uploads/GLRI-Fact-Sheet-20180924.pdf>

² <https://www.glri.us/sites/default/files/fy2017-glri-report-to-congress-201902-36pp.pdf>

³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3591>