



June 17, 2009

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters<sup>®</sup>-Great Lakes Coalition, we urge you to vote for the compromise Baucus-Klobuchar-Boxer substitute amendment to S. 787, the Clean Water Restoration Act, and oppose any other amendments that would weaken this bill.

The Healing Our Waters Coalition is a group of 110 national, regional and local organizations working to restore and protect the Great Lakes. The Coalition represents millions of Americans that live near, work near, and love this national treasure.

We've been impressed by how hard committee members have worked the past few months to develop a compromise to S. 787. Although we believe that S. 787 as originally introduced restores the historic protections of the Clean Water Act without expanding its scope, we know that others disagreed, which meant that a revised bill was necessary. Now there is a compromise being offered by Senators Baucus, Klobuchar, and Boxer that strikes the right balance of addressing the concerns raised without sacrificing the need to restore the Clean Water Act's protections over all our waters. This substitute will hopefully allow the Senate to act quickly and finally resolve the confusion and uncertainty around the Clean Water Act that is causing the continued loss of many vital waters to pollution and destruction.

For years the Clean Water Act protected all wetlands and tributaries in the Great Lakes region – those by the shore and those inland. Two Supreme Court rulings and subsequent administrative actions now undermine Congress' original intent to protect all of America's waters and wetlands. The resulting uncertainty over the scope of Clean Water Act protections is also resulting in costly permitting delays and litigation and undermining Clean Water Act enforcement. EPA Administrator Jackson has confirmed that a legislative fix is necessary.

Restoring Great Lakes wetlands and rivers is crucial if we are to protect the Great Lakes for future generations. Yet, the wetland restoration goals of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration are undermined by Supreme Court rulings and administrative actions that leave existing wetlands and streams vulnerable to destruction. The longer we wait the more expensive and complicated the task becomes.

We ask again that you support the Baucus-Klobuchar-Boxer substitute amendment to S. 787 and oppose any amendments that weaken the bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chad Lord, policy director for our Coalition, at 202-454-3385 or [clord@npca.org](mailto:clord@npca.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Skelding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J" and "S".

Jeff Skelding  
Campaign Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Lord". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "C" and "L".

Chad Lord  
Policy Director