



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
B-308, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Simpson and Ranking Members Dicks and Moran:

As Members of Congress who support investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes region, we respectfully request that you include sustained funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as you finalize the Fiscal Year 2012 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill.

The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth and hold 90 percent of our nation's supply of fresh surface water. The lakes provide invaluable recreational opportunities and support shipping, fishing, boating and tourism industries that generate 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages. Restoring the Great Lakes advances our regional strategy to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources and waterfront communities.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades and provides critical funding to programs that clean up contaminated sediments, improve water quality, combat invasive species, protect watersheds from polluted run-off, and restore wetlands and other valuable habitats in the Great Lakes. The GLRI is supporting implementation of a comprehensive, bipartisan restoration strategy that is broadly endorsed by the Great Lakes states, cities, tribes, conservation groups, and business and industry.

We realize that budget resources are tight this year; however, we urge you to make Great Lakes restoration a funding priority. During the recent consideration of the Interior-Environment funding bill in the House, a bipartisan majority of House members supported the LaTourette

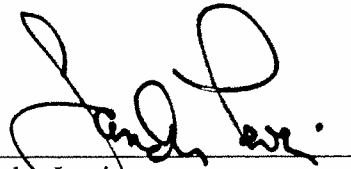
amendment to increase funding for the GLRI to \$300 million, which is still \$50 million below the President's request for this program.

Sustained funding for the GLRI in Fiscal Year 2012 will encourage continued investments and help ensure the success of this important restoration program. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

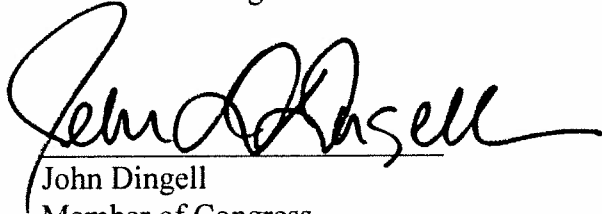
Sincerely,



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



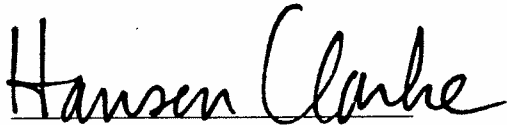
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



John Dingell
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



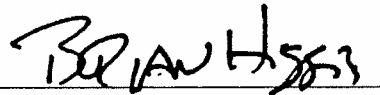
Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



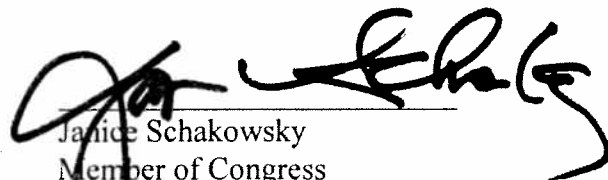
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



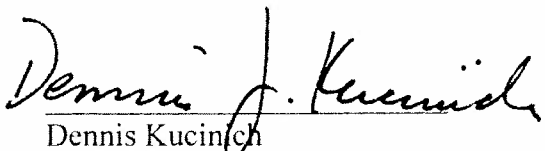
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



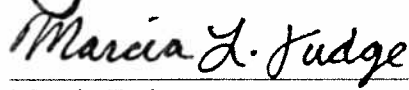
Robert Dold
Member of Congress



Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress



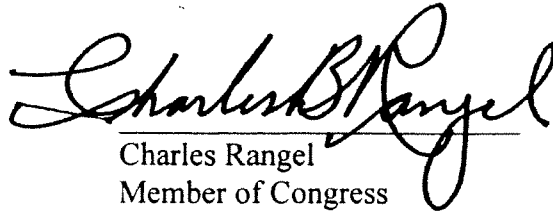
Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress



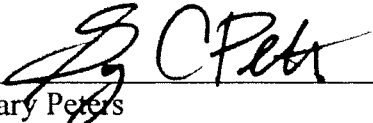
Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



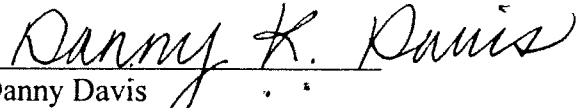
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



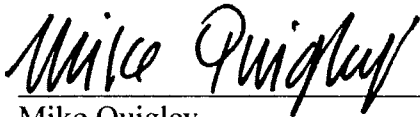
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
Member of Congress



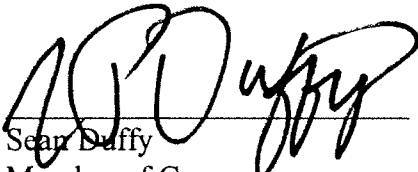
Danny Davis
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



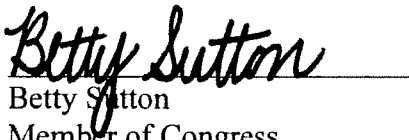
Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



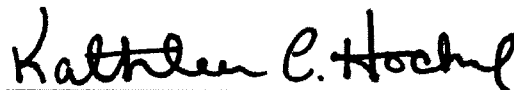
Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Bill Owens
Member of Congress



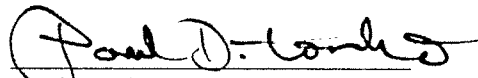
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Kathleen Hochul
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez

Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress