

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

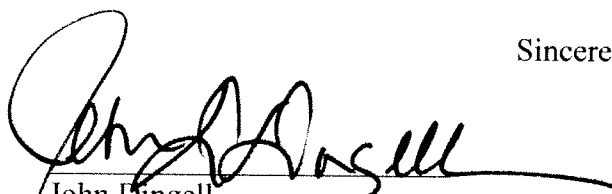
As Members of the House who support a strong, healthy and productive Great Lakes region, we respectfully request that you provide \$300 million in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2014 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. We appreciate the Committee's past efforts to fund this program, and believe Great Lakes restoration needs to remain a priority.


The Great Lakes are the world's largest system of fresh surface water, providing drinking water for more than 30 million Americans. The Great Lakes are also an invaluable environmental and economic resource that produce immeasurable benefits for the region and the nation. The Great Lakes support 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages each year. The Great Lakes fishery alone is valued at \$7 billion a year. The Lakes also support commerce, agriculture, transportation and tourism, and are home to over 3500 species of plants and animals.

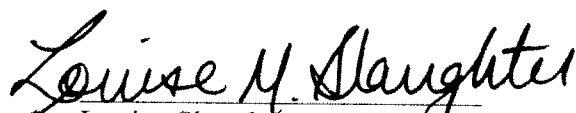
At the same time, the Lakes have struggled with invasive species, toxic chemical contamination, habitat loss, and beach closures. We must do everything we can to protect the Great Lakes and combat these clear and present threats.

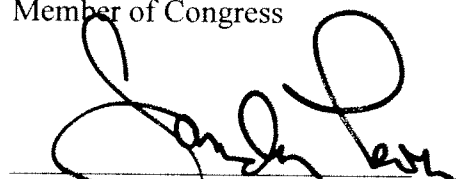
We urge you to support this vital investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

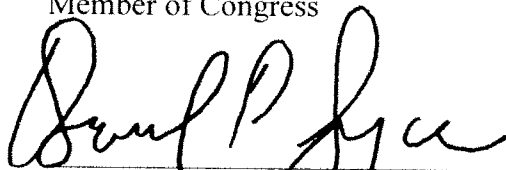
Sincerely,

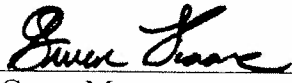
  
John Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress

  
Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

  
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

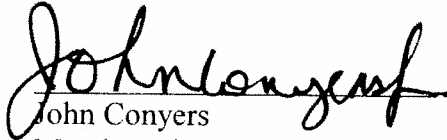
  
David Joyce  
Member of Congress



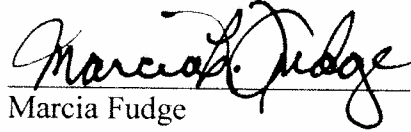
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



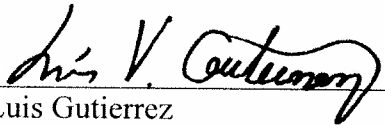
Gary Peters  
Member of Congress



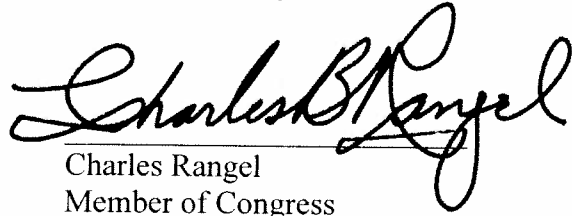
John Conyers  
Member of Congress



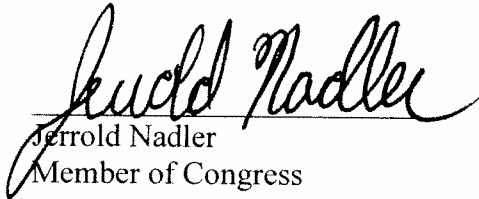
Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress



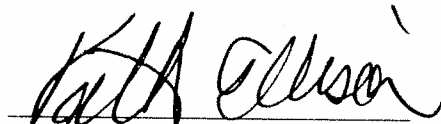
Luis Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



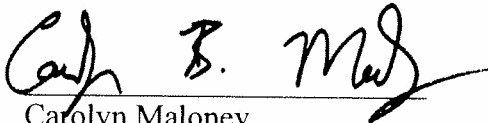
Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



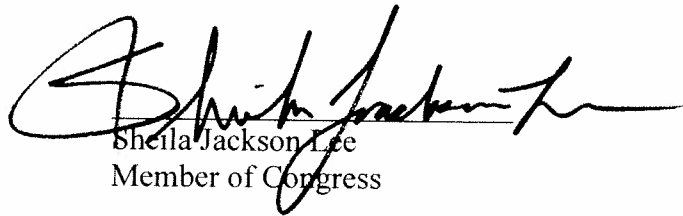
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



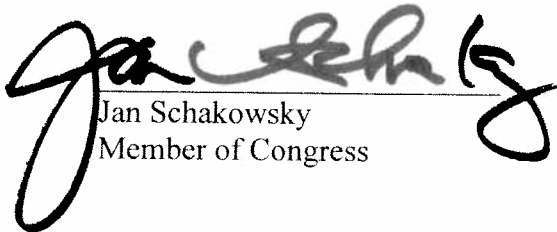
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



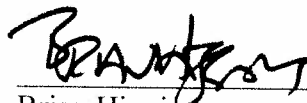
Thomas Petri  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

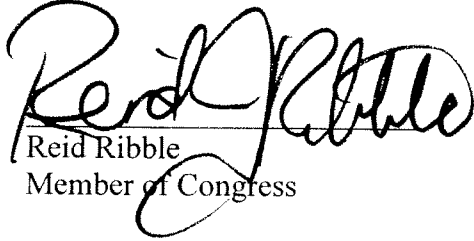


Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

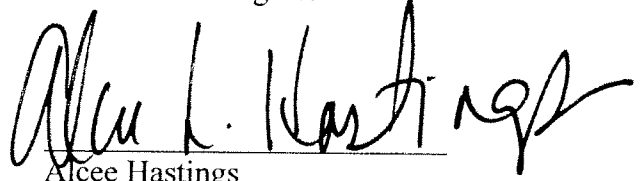
 

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



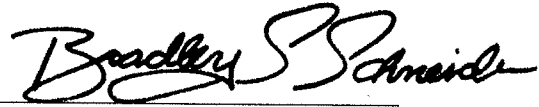
Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress



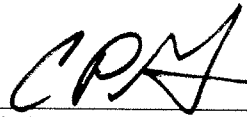
Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress



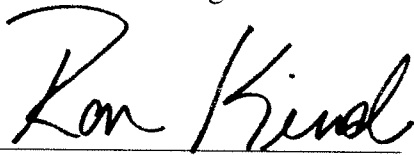
Brad Schneider  
Member of Congress



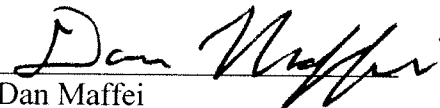
Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress



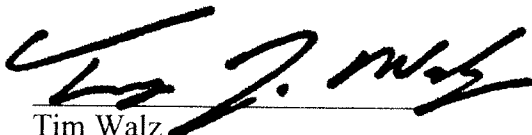
Christopher Gibson  
Member of Congress



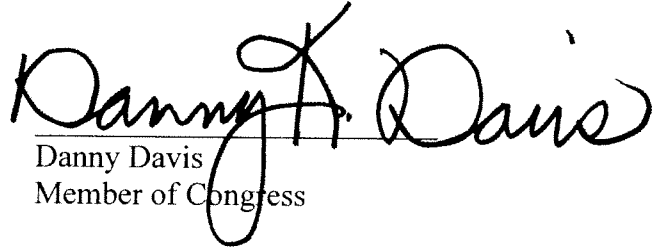
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Dan Maffei  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



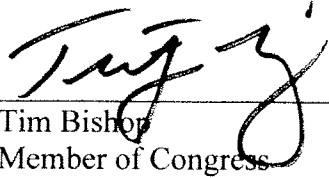
Danny Davis  
Member of Congress



Rick Nolan  
Member of Congress

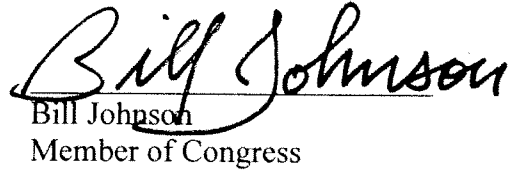


Bill Owens  
Member of Congress



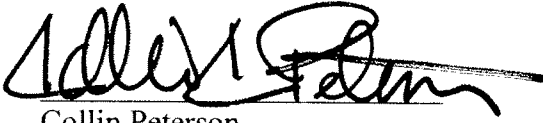
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Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress



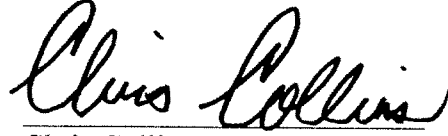
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Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



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Chris Collins  
Member of Congress