

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2017

Mr. Scott Pruitt  
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Pruitt:

We write to you in opposition to the closure of the Region 5 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency based in the Great Lakes region. If recent press reports are true, the closure of the regional office – which serves Michigan and other states in the Great Lakes region – is very concerning.

The Great Lakes drive our region's economy. Each year, the Great Lakes generate billions in annual economic activity and support 1.5 million good-paying jobs in the tourism, boating and fishing industries. The Great Lakes also provide drinking water to 48 million people. It is in our national interest to protect the Great Lakes from harm.

Unfortunately, the Great Lakes also face real threats. From combatting invasive species like Asian carp, to restoring wetland habitat, we must work every day to protect the Great Lakes. Having a regional EPA office situated on the Great Lakes and dedicated to our region ensures a concerted effort to protect our environment and promote public health. This regional office helps to administer the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which is showing real and measurable results. But more work remains to protect the Great Lakes, and closing the regional office jeopardizes the progress we have made.

EPA's Region 5 office also helps to ensure that the residents of Flint, Mich., and other communities have clean drinking water. Currently, the regional office is providing ongoing water testing and technical assistance to Flint as it continues to recover from the city's lead in water crisis. In other areas, they are finding ways to prevent toxins from entering our drinking water through events like harmful algal blooms. The Great Lakes region is best served by an office that has experience and expertise with these regional issues.

Our area of the country has unique natural resources, and having a regional office dedicated to protecting them from harm is essential. We strongly support the EPA continuing to operate a regional office located in the Great Lakes region.


Sincerely,



Dan Kildee  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS




Fred Upton  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Sander M. Levin  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Dave Trott  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
Debbie Dingell  
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Mike Bishop  
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John Conyers, Jr.  
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
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