November 1st, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Leahy,

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, we write to thank you for your efforts in advancing the fiscal year 2020 appropriations process. We are grateful for you and your colleagues hard work in reaching a budget agreement, increasing the caps for nondefense discretionary spending, and recently passing the appropriations mini-bus, H.R. 3055. We specifically appreciate your work strengthening the federal commitment to Great Lakes Restoration in Division C – the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Act, 2020.

The Great Lakes define our region’s way of life, provide drinking water for over 30 million Americans, and is at the heart of a binational economy that is the third largest in the world. Protecting these waters and continuing our investment in the region today is essential. As you gather with your Senate colleagues to allocate funding levels and conference the bills, we urge you to continue your support for Great Lakes priorities by ensuring the highest possible allocation for the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. Furthermore, we encourage you to support:

- The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, by adopting the House passed allocation of $320 million
- Asian Carp mitigation and eradication efforts, by adopting the Senate approved report language apportioning $25 million and $9.6 million to the USFWS and USGS respectively.
- The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, by adopting the Senate approved report language apportioning the program $1.68 million.
- Water infrastructure investment through the:
  - Clean Water State Revolving Fund, by adopting the House approved allocation of $1.78 billion
  - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, by adopting the House approved allocation of $1.3 billion
- Sec. 106 Clean Water State Grants, by adopting the House approved allocation of $240.8 million
- Sec. 221 Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants, by adopting the House approved allocation of $90 million
- Sec. 319 Nonpoint Pollution Grants, by adopting the House approved allocation of $175.9 million

We are grateful for the much needed support the region has received and understand the difficult decisions the Conferees face in allocating funding from the budget agreement. But we urge you to keep the highest possible funding allocation for the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. We are seeing on-the-ground results because of the investments in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. However, the Great Lakes still face many urgent problems. The problems we face will only get worse and the price we pay will only be higher if the federal partnership with the region is scaled back.

We thank you for your leadership and support. Please do not hesitate to contact Chad Lord, our coalition’s policy director, if you have any questions. He can be reached at (202) 454-3385 or clord@npca.org.

Sincerely,

Linda Hartman
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie

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President
Clean Wisconsin

Joel Brammeier
President & CEO
Alliance for the Great Lakes

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Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County

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Steve Schultz
Program Coordinator
Clean Water Action Minnesota

Kyle Rorah
Regional Director of Public Policy
Ducks Unlimited
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization/Role</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>State Director</td>
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<td>Jill Schanon Macek</td>
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<td>Dean Farr</td>
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<td>Dean Farr</td>
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<td>Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable</td>
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<td>Paul Pacholski</td>
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