



September 17th, 2019

The Honorable «FName» «LName»
«Office»
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative «LName»:

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition and our over 160 member organizations, we thank you for introducing S. 2295, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019. Your leadership and support for the reauthorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is essential to the region’s economy, environment, and public health. You’re ensuring that the bipartisan support and the broad benefits of the GLRI are clear to all and worth expanding to protect the drinking water and quality of life of more than 30 million Americans.

As you know, the GLRI has allowed the 8-state region to undertake one of the world’s largest freshwater ecosystem restoration projects, achieving tremendous results and seeing economic returns of more than 3 to 1 across the region. However, there is still much work to be done. Two-thirds of impairments remain untreated across 19 AOCs, placing the health of communities at risk. Drinking water and coastal economies remain under threat from harmful algal blooms that have shut down entire water systems; as was seen in Toledo, Ohio in 2014. Invasive species, like Asian Carp, are knocking at the door of the lakes and threaten a \$7 billion fishery. Moreover, emerging contaminants and a changing climate continue to exacerbate the challenges we face, many of which disproportionately impact people that have historically borne the brunt of environmental injustice. This underscores the urgency for the GLRI to address these growing threats and we look forward to working with you to find ways to ensure restoration investments lead to equitable outcomes for everyone in the region.

The GLRI has been an environmental and economic success, but much work remains. The region stands ready to continue this important federal partnership and ensure all benefit from and enjoy these investments in restoration and protection. This bill is an important step in facing these challenges and 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. We look forward to working with you as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

Molly M. Flanagan
Vice President, Policy
Alliance for the Great Lakes

Chad Tokowicz
Inland Fisheries Policy Manager
American Sportfishing Association

Erin McGrath
Policy Manager
Audubon New York

Tom Conway
Program Manager
BlueGreen Alliance

Melissa Fratello
Executive Director
Buffalo Audubon Society

Jill Jedlicka
Executive Director
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Brian Smith
Associate Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Deanna White
State Director
Clean Water Action Minnesota

Mark Redsten
President & CEO
Clean Wisconsin

Bryan Stubbs
Executive Director
Cleveland Water Alliance

Rob Mrowka
President
Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County

Mary Ellen Gondeck
Justice Team Member
Congregation of St. Joseph

Nels Paulsen
Policy Director
Conservation Minnesota

Amy Beyer
Director
Conservation Resource Alliance

Michele Arquette-Palermo
Head of the Freshwater Forum
Cranbrook Institute of Science

James N. Bujll
Environmental Policy Coordinator
Detroit Audubon

Kyle Rorah
Regional Director of Public Policy
Ducks Unlimited

John Stegmeier
Conservation Chair
Dwight Lydell Chapter - Izaak Walton League of America

Leann Sestak
Director of Communication and Community Development
Environment Erie

Nathan Murphy
State Director
Environment Michigan

John Rumpler
Senior Attorney
Environment New York

John Rumpler
Senior Attorney
Environment Ohio

Howard A. Learner
Executive Director
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Liz Kirkwood
Executive Director
FLOW (For Love of Water)

Alicia Smith
Associate Policy Director
Freshwater Future

Catherine Pabich
Friends of Crescent Beach Committee
Coordinator
Friends of Crescent Beach

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director
Friends of the Chicago River

Mike Carlson
Executive Director
Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts

Rick Graham
National Great Lakes Committee Chair
Great Lakes Committee, Izaak Walton League of America

Ivan Hack Jr
President
Headwaters Chapter Izaak Walton League of America

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSs
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters - USA-JPIC

Indra Frank
Director of Environmental Health and Water Policy
Hoosier Environmental Council

Michael Bochnik
Conservation Chair
Hudson River Audubon Society

Brad Jensen
Executive Director
Huron Pines

Rebecca Esselman
Interim Executive Director
Huron River Watershed Council

Edward L Michael
Lake Michigan Committee Chair
Illinois Council Trout Unlimited

Dean Farr
Legislative Advocate
Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League

Colleen Smith
Legislative Director
Illinois Environmental Council

Emily Wood
Executive Director
Indiana Wildlife Federation

Les Monostory
President
Izaak Walton League of America - New York
State Division

Joseph Smith
Youth Development
Junction Coalition

Dave Spangler
Vice President
Lake Erie Charter Boat Association

Sandy Bihn
Executive Director
Lake Erie Waterkeeper

James Kettler
Executive Director
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

Krista Grimm
President
League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region

Chris Carson
President
League of Women Voters of the United States

Erin Grunze
Executive Director
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Pamela Carter
Councilwoman
Lorain City Council

Lisa Wozniak
Executive Director
Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Dennis H. Eade
Executive Director
Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's
Association

John Ropp
CEO
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy

Cheryl Nenn
Riverkeeper
Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Brenda Coley
Executive Director
Milwaukee Water Commons

Steve Morse
Executive Director
Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Marnie Urso
Policy Director, Audubon Great Lakes
National Audubon Society

Lynn McClure
Senior Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Mike Shriberg
Regional Executive Director, Great Lakes
National Wildlife Federation

Dennis West
President
Northern Initiatives

Elaine Graham
Ohio Division President
Ohio Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Peter Bucher
Water Resources Director
Ohio Environmental Council

Alison Kocek
President
Onondaga Audubon

Elinor Barber
Recording Secretary
Orange County Audubon NY Inc,

Ashleigh Deemer
Western Pennsylvania Director
PennEnvironment

Jay Burney
Executive Director
Pollinator Conservation Association

Irene Senn
Coordinator
Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes

Robert Stegmier
Board Member
Rogue River Watershed Partners

Natalie Johnson
Executive Director
Save the Dunes

Dalal Aboulhosn
Deputy Legislative Director
Sierra Club

Phyllis Tierney
Sister
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester

Michael Kelly
Director, Great Lakes Office
The Conservation Fund

Jennifer McKay
Policy Director
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Taylor Ridderbusch
Great Lakes Organizer
Trout Unlimited

Pam Mayerfeld
VP of Marketing & Sales
Turner Designs

Monica Lewis-Patrick
President & CEO
We the People of Detroit

Bill Wood
Executive Director
West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Jay Burney
Advocacy Director
Western New York Environmental Alliance

Jacqueline E.Gillon
Community Engagement Specialist
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

John Simpson
Director
Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

George Guyant
Great Lakes Committee Chair
Wisconsin Division - Izaak Walton League Of
America

Megan Severson
State Director
Wisconsin Environment

Diane Lembck
President
Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society

Mike Kuhr
State Council Chair
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Tracy Hames
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation