

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment & Public  
Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment & Public  
Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Vitter:

We respectfully request that the Committee on Environment and Public Works take action on S. 1232, the Great Lakes Ecological and Economic Protection Act (GLEEPA), which would formally authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to clean up and restore the Great Lakes.

The GLRI, which was implemented in 2010 and based on a collaborative strategy developed in 2004, targets the most significant problems within the Great Lakes basin. The result-driven projects under this initiative include cleanup of toxics and contaminated sediment, prevention of aquatic invasive species, and habitat protection and restoration. While the GLRI is authorized under the Clean Water Act, GLEEPA would provide clearer direction to the EPA, along with improved accountability and results.

The Great Lakes are a magnificent resource and unique in the world. These bodies of water, formed during the last ten thousand years, are the largest source of surface freshwater on the planet. As temporary stewards of this invaluable resource, we must do all we can to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Taking action on this legislation would help ensure that we are wisely targeting taxpayer dollars to address the most serious problems facing the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk



Carl Levin

  
Tammy Baldwin

  
Rob Portman


  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand

  
Al Franken

  
Debbie Stabenow

  
Sherrod Brown

  
Amy Klobuchar

  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.