

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

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and  
Science, and Related Agencies  
H-309 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

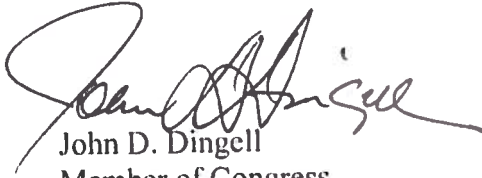
As members of the Great Lakes delegation, we are writing to inform the Subcommittee of our strong support for these programs that are integral to the Great Lakes environment and waterborne commerce. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 appropriations bill, we write to share our commitment to programs within the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that protect our economic and environmental health, including fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes. In particular, we will carefully monitor the following programs:

- **The Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory** as authorized through Executive Order 11564 creating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Act, and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;
- **Coastal Zone Management grants** as authorized through the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972;
- **National Sea Grants** as authorized through the National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966; and
- **The Great Lakes Observatory System** as authorized by the Integrated Ocean and Observation System Act of 2009.

The program work carried out by NOAA is of critical importance to the sustainability of the Great Lakes' natural resources. As you know, the Great Lakes are a unique natural system of global economic and environmental significance. It provides the world's largest system of fresh surface water, supplying drinking water for more than 30 million Americans; supports over 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages each year; and is home to over 3,500 species of plants and animals. At the same time, the Lakes have struggled with invasive species, toxic chemical contamination, habitat loss, and beach closures. The missions of the Great Lakes programs are closely and integrally linked such that one agency's programmatic activities and funding will have ramifications for other agencies' programs success.

We urge the Subcommittee to carefully review these programs and thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions, please contact Matt McMurray in Rep. Slaughter's office at 225-3615 or [Matt.McMurray@mail.house.gov](mailto:Matt.McMurray@mail.house.gov) or Neal Ullman in Rep. Dingell's office at 225-0471 or [Neal.Ullman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Neal.Ullman@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress  
Great Lakes Task Force,  
Democratic Co-Chair



Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress  
Great Lakes Task Force,  
Democratic Co-Chair