



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST SENATE COALITION

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science & Related Agencies
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
& Related Agencies
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

As Senators from Great Lakes states, we are writing to express our support for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) program that benefits the Great Lakes region. We request that the following program be supported in the fiscal year 2014 (FY14) Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

- **We request that the Committee provide strong support for the National Coastal Zone Management Program grants.**

NOAA's National Coastal Zone Management Program provides grants to states with approved coastal zone management plans for the preservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of coastal zone areas, including those in the Great Lakes region. The program is critical for states working to implement their management plans and in FY12 it directly supported 675 jobs in 34 coastal and Great Lakes states. Funding supports state and local efforts to mitigate coastal hazards, conserve and restore coastal habitat, and protect coastal water quality. Effective management of ecological resources increases quality of life, improves property values, stimulates the economy, and protects life and property. We believe continued support should be provided for this unique program as it recognizes the economic and ecological importance of our national coastal and Great Lakes shorelines, and supports state and local efforts to address critical management issues.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to this important request. If you have any questions, please feel free to have your staff contact Alice Yates (Senator Levin, 202-224-2683) or Sarah Walter (Senator Kirk, 202-224-2854).

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk, Co-Chair
United States Senator

Carl Levin, Co-Chair
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator