

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2014

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
H-308, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Moran:

As Members of the House who believe that a healthy economy in our region is intrinsically linked to the health of the Great Lakes, we respectfully request that you provide \$300 million in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2015 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

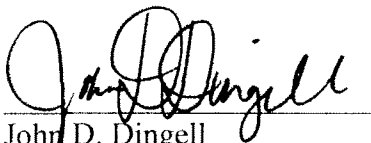
The Great Lakes are the world's largest system of fresh surface water, providing drinking water for nearly 40 million people. The Lakes are also an economic driver, supporting 1.5 million jobs and generating \$62 billion in wages annually. The Great Lakes fishery alone is valued at \$7 billion a year. The Lakes also support commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism. For all these reasons, we believe Great Lakes restoration must remain a priority.

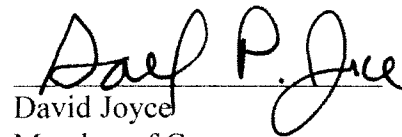
More than a century of environmental damage has taken a significant toll on the Great Lakes, which have struggled to overcome toxic substances contamination, habitat loss, invasive species, and beach closings.

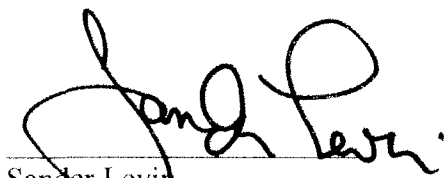
In the short time that the GLRI has been in place, it has made significant progress in addressing the longstanding environmental challenges confronting the Lakes, particularly in the areas of combating invasive species like the Asian carp, protecting and restoring thousands of acres of habitat, and cleaning up toxics and Areas of Concern. More work needs to be done.

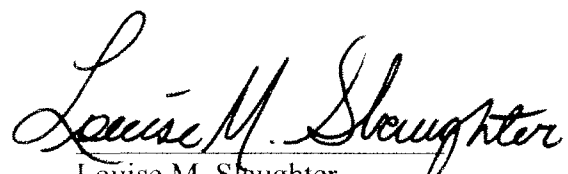
We urge you to continue this vital investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,


John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

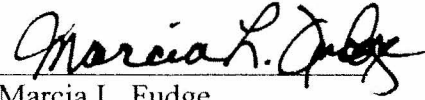

David Joyce
Member of Congress


Sander Levin
Member of Congress


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



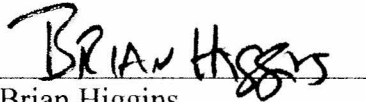
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



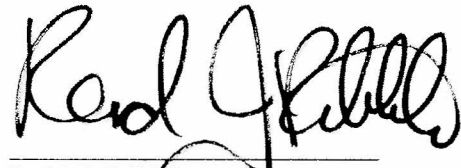
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



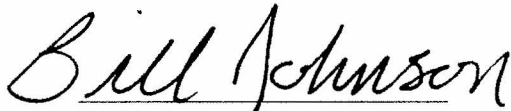
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



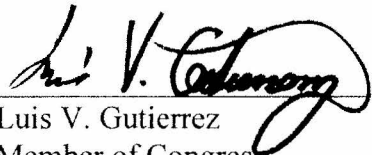
Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress



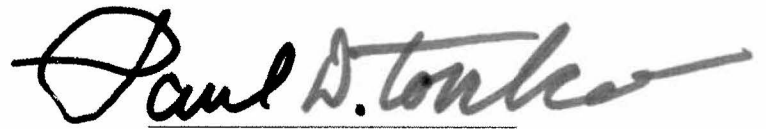
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



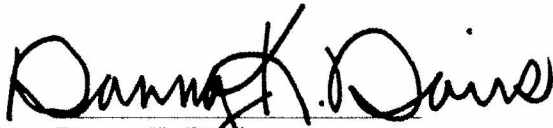
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



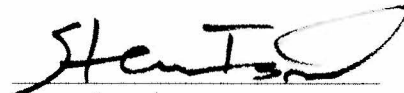
Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



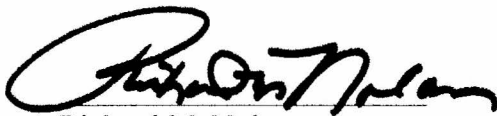
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



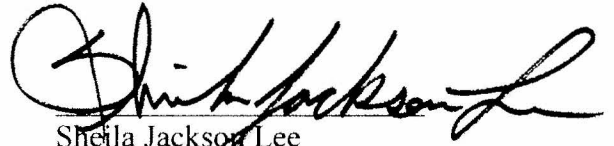
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



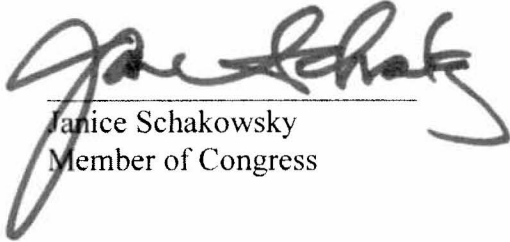
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



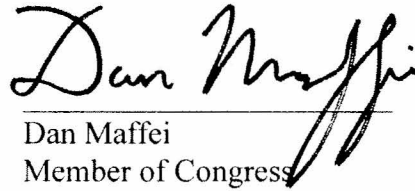
Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress



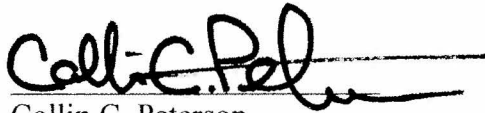
Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress



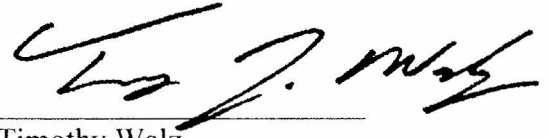
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Dan Maffei
Member of Congress



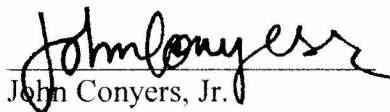
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Timothy Walz
Member of Congress



Bill Owens
Member of Congress



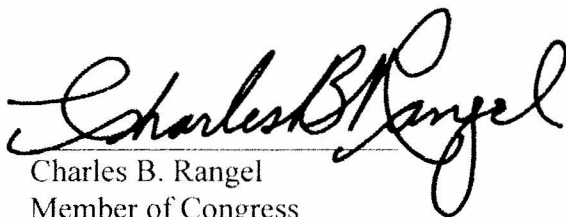
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



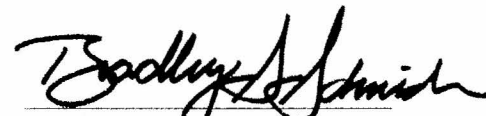
Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



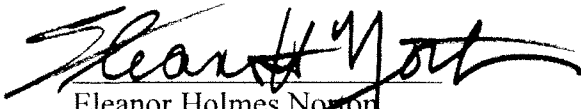
Grace Meng
Member of Congress





Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

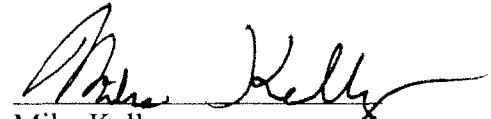



Bradley Schneider
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

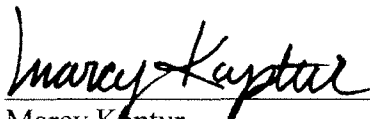

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress

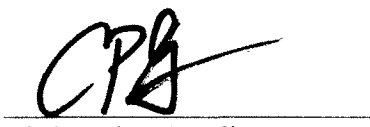

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

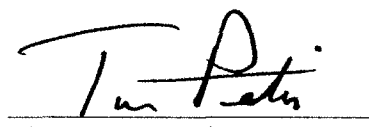

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

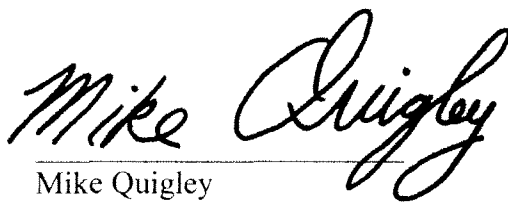

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

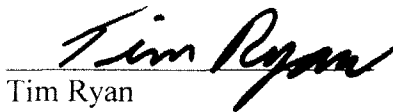

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

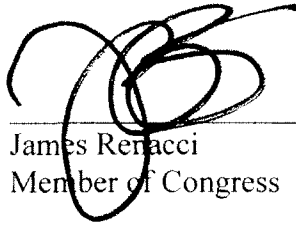

Chris Collins
Member of Congress


Christopher P. Gibson
Member of Congress

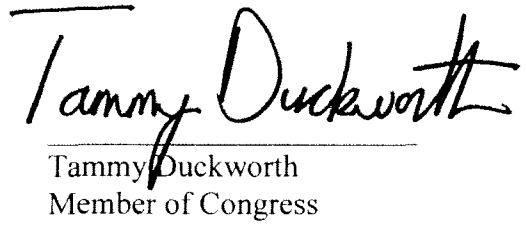

Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



James Renacci
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress