



*THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST HOUSE COALITION*

## **GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE**

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Tom Latham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ed Pastor  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

As co-chairs serving on the Great Lakes Task Force, we are writing to inform the Subcommittee that we are united in carefully monitoring programs that are integral to the Great Lakes environment and waterborne commerce. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 appropriations bill, we write to share our commitment to programs within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that protect our economic and environmental health, including fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes. In particular, we will carefully monitor the **Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC)** as authorized by the Wiley-Dondero Act of 1954.

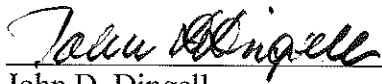
SLSDC and its Canadian counterpart, the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, jointly manage and monitor the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway System, a 15-lock system, impacting vessel traffic, trade development, and invasive species detection. We support ensuring the safe, secure, reliable, efficient, international waterway.

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.

As the work carried out by DOT's Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is of critical importance to the sustainability of the Great Lakes' natural resources and waterborne commerce, we urge the Subcommittee to carefully review this program and thank you for your

attention to this matter. If you have questions, please contact Samuel Breene, Legislative Director of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, at 226-6106 or [samuel.breene@mail.house.gov](mailto:samuel.breene@mail.house.gov).

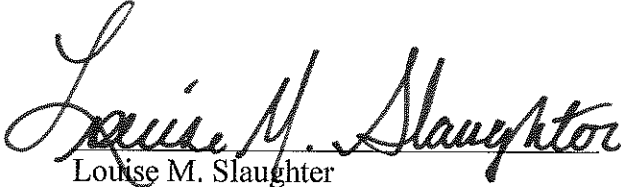
Sincerely,



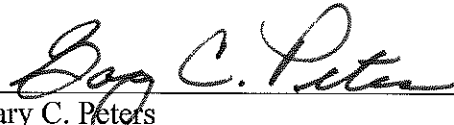
John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress  
Great Lakes Task Force,  
Democratic Co-Chair



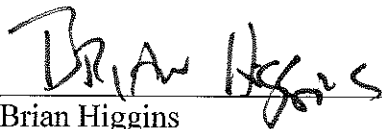
Candice S. Miller  
Member of Congress  
Great Lakes Task Force,  
Republican Co-Chair



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



Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress