



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST HOUSE COALITION

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As members of the Great Lakes delegation, 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) 2016 appropriations bill, we write to share our commitment to programs within the several agencies under your jurisdiction 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 Restoration Initiative (GLRI)** as authorized through the Clean Water Act Section 118 and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012;
- **BEACH grants** as authorized through the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000;
- **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sea Lamprey control program and the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration program** as authorized through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, and the Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956;
- **The US Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center** as authorized through the Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956, the U.S. Fish Commission of 1927, and Executive Order 11564;
- **The National Cooperative Geological Mapping Program** as authorized by the National Geological Mapping Act of 2009, which includes programs such as the Great Lakes Mapping Coalition;

- **The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds program** as authorized by the Amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1987 and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996, respectively.

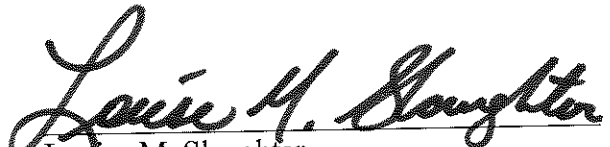
This work carried out by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is of critical importance to the sustainability of the Great Lakes' natural resources. As you know, the Great Lakes are a unique natural system of global economic and environmental 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 Samuel Breene, Legislative Director of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, at 226-6106 or samuel.breene@mail.house.gov.

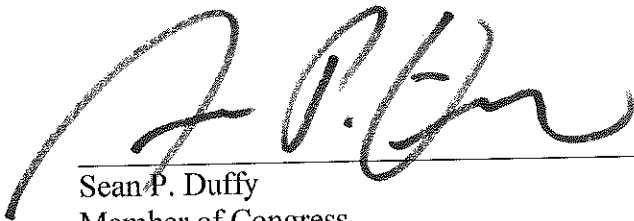
Sincerely,



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



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



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress
Great Lakes Task Force
Republican Co-Chair



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress
Great Lakes Task Force
Democratic Co-Chair



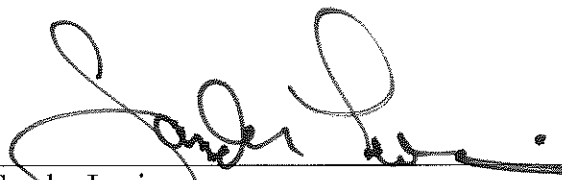
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress