March 16, 2015

Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies  
B308 Rayburn  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to respectfully request that you provide $300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2016 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Great Lakes are a unique natural treasure and the largest system of fresh surface water in the world. The Lakes provide drinking water for nearly 40 million people, and are also an economic driver that supports jobs, commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism.

More than a century of environmental damage has taken a significant toll on the Great Lakes. Since the GLRI was launched in 2010, it has made significant progress in addressing the longstanding environmental challenges confronting the Great Lakes. To date, the program has been used to fund more than 2,000 projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitats, clean up toxic Areas of Concern, fight invasive species, and prevent beach closings.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is showing real, measurable results. We urge you to continue this investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes. The $300 million we are requesting for this vital program is in line with the authorization level included in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act that the House approved last year.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress

Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress

Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress

Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress
André Carson
Member of Congress