



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST HOUSE COALITION

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

March 23, 2015

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

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

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As members serving the Great Lakes region, 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 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.

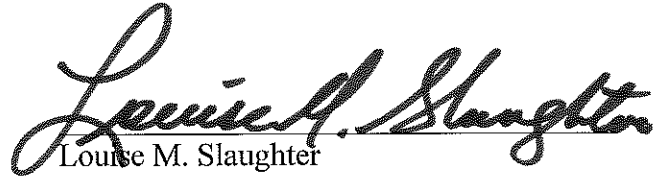
The Great Lakes are a unique natural system of global economic and environmental significance. It provides the world's largest system of fresh surface water, supplying drinking water for more than 30 million Americans; supports over 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages each year; and is 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.

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



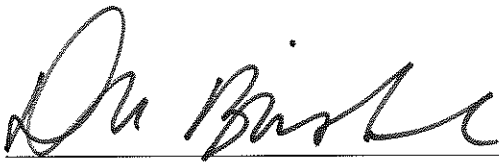
Marcy Kaptur
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Great Lakes Task Force
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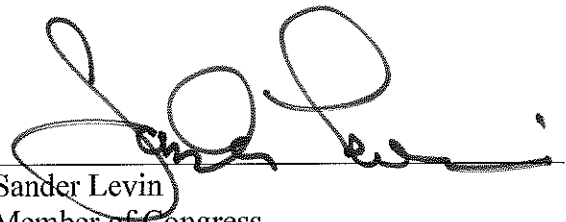
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



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Sander Levin
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