



# Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

Eisenhower Corporate Park • 2805 South Industrial Hwy., Suite 100  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-6791  
Office (734) 971-9135 • Fax (734) 971-9150 • [glc@glc.org](mailto:glc@glc.org)

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Tim A. Eder

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March 30, 2009

## Re: Budget Resolution – Support for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Dear Member of the House Great Lakes Delegation

On behalf of the Great Lakes Commission and its member states, I urge you to support the inclusion of \$475 million in the EPA budget for FY 2010 for a multi-agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative proposed by President Obama and being advanced in the House Budget Resolution by members of the Great Lakes Delegation. The Commission applauds this important initiative, which we hope will enhance the federal government's ability to be an equal partner with the Great Lakes states and other stakeholders in restoring the Great Lakes and advancing our region's economic revitalization.

The Great Lakes are a vital element of our regional and national economy. But, their value is compromised by invasive species, water pollution, degraded habitat for fish and wildlife, and a legacy of toxic contaminants in our rivers and harbors. Halting the introduction and spread of invasive species, reducing pollution, cleaning up toxic hot spots and restoring valuable fish and wildlife resources will ensure that the lakes support the people and communities that depend on them. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is an unprecedented opportunity to help our region address these challenges, while creating jobs and stimulating economic development.

Last month, the Great Lakes Commission transmitted to Congress its recommendations for policy changes and funding needed to address the challenges facing the Great Lakes (see <http://www.glc.org/restore/>). The President's proposed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, if funded by Congress, could fulfill many of our recommendations. **We urge you to include funding for the Initiative in the FY 2010 Congressional Budget Resolution and to provide appropriations to carry out the Initiative in collaboration with other federal agencies, the Great Lakes states and other partners.**

The Great Lakes Commission looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to advance the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. If you have questions, please contact the Commission's executive director, Tim Eder, at 734-971-9135 or by email at [teder@glc.org](mailto:teder@glc.org).

Sincerely,

Governor Pat Quinn  
Chairman