



Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

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September 25, 2009

Hon. David R. Obey, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Norman D. Dicks, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
B-308 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Mike Simpson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Obey and Dicks, and Ranking Members Lewis and Simpson:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Commission and its eight member states, I am writing to urge you to maintain full funding of \$475 million in the FY 2010 EPA budget for the multi-agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) proposed by President Obama as you prepare to resolve differences with your colleagues in the Senate. We applaud you for including the full amount of the Administration's request in the Appropriations bill for the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies for this important initiative.

The Obama Administration has proposed a strong program that is based on sound science and years of research, planning and environmental studies. The Initiative builds on the priorities of the region's governors and the recommendations established in 2005 in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes. This comprehensive strategy defines the problems facing the lakes, outlines solutions and provides clear goals for measuring progress. The Commission's eight member states, together with local governments and nongovernmental stakeholders, have consistently called for increased federal support for implementation of the restoration strategy, to complement and accelerate the substantial efforts of states, local and non-government efforts in the region.

This summer, EPA convened a series of meetings across the Great Lakes basin to review the proposed GLRI and secure feedback on a multi-year action plan to guide its implementation. The meetings demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and support among the states for the Initiative and a clear commitment to lead its implementation. All of the states have identified high-priority, on-the-ground restoration actions that are ready to be implemented immediately.

In brief, the Great Lakes region is well organized and prepared to target the full \$475 million to the most urgent problems facing the Great Lakes. The GLRI will not only help restore this priceless national treasure but will help revitalize the struggling economy in a region hard hit by the recession. We understand the profound role the lakes play in driving our economies and our way of life and, thus, the imperative to restore and protect them for future generations.

Hon. David Obey, Norman Dicks, Jerry Lewis and Mike Simpson
September 25, 2009
Page 2

Please continue to support full funding of \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to strengthen the federal government's partnership with the Great Lakes states in restoring the Great Lakes and advancing our region's economic revitalization. Should you have any questions, please contact our executive director, Tim Eder, at 734-971-9135, teder@glc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Governor Pat Quinn
Chairman