



June 9, 2009

Dear Member of the Senate Great Lakes Delegation:

President Obama’s Fiscal Year 2010 federal budget proposes \$475 million for the “Great Lakes Restoration Initiative,” an unprecedented opportunity to address some of the Great Lakes basin’s most pressing needs. The President’s proposal accelerates implementation of a comprehensive, science-based Great Lakes restoration plan that we and hundreds of others in the region helped produce. The Initiative will make the federal government a partner with the states, cities and others in restoring the Great Lakes, and will significantly strengthen the national investment in revitalizing our regional economy.

The undersigned organizations strongly support the President’s proposal and ask that you contact the Chair and Ranking Member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee (Senators Dianne Feinstein and Lamar Alexander, respectively) to request that the Initiative be appropriated in full.

We are committed to working with the federal government to ensure that Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds are used to support the detailed restoration plan endorsed by the eight-state region’s mayors, governors, tribes, industry and environmental leaders. We also commit to working collaboratively with each other, the Administration, and Congress to ensure a successful outcome from this investment in Great Lakes restoration.

The Great Lakes are a vital component of our regional and national economy; restoring them and maximizing their benefits must be a key policy goal for the federal government. Now, more than ever, we face an urgent need to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources that will be central to our future.

Thank you for all you do to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

Joel Brammeier, Acting President and CEO
Alliance for the Great Lakes

Jane A. TenEyck, Executive Director
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

Eric Boysen, Chair
Council of Great Lakes Fishery Agencies

George H. Kuper, President
Council of Great Lakes Industries

Roger Knight, Chair
Council of Lake Committees

Robert D. Hoffman, Director
Ducks Unlimited Great Lakes/Atlantic Region

Tim Eder, Executive Director
Great Lakes Commission

Michael Hansen, Chair
Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Ed Wolking, Jr.
Great Lakes Metropolitan Chambers Coalition

Derek R. Stack, Executive Director
Great Lakes United

Jeff Skelding, Campaign Director
Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition

Lynn McClure, Midwest Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Andy Buchsbaum, Director, Great Lakes Regional
Center, National Wildlife Federation

Henry L. Henderson, Director, Midwest Regional
Office, Natural Resources Defense Council

Helen Taylor, State Director, Michigan
The Nature Conservancy

