



September 25, 2009

Hon. David R. Obey, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Norman D. Dicks, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
B-308 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Mike Simpson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

We are writing on behalf of the undersigned organizations 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) as you prepare to resolve differences with your colleagues in the Senate. We applaud you for including the President's full request in the appropriations bill for the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

The GLRI builds on priorities and recommendations established in 2005 in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes, a comprehensive plan that defines the problems facing the lakes, outlines solutions and provides clear goals for measuring progress. Our agencies and organizations – representing the Great Lakes states, tribes, business and industry, environmental and conservation organizations – helped develop the 2005 strategy and have consistently called for federal leadership to implement it. **We stand united in our strong support for the GLRI and view its full funding as a significant regional priority.**

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 Great Lakes states have identified high-priority, on-the-ground restoration actions that are ready to be implemented immediately. They are prepared to coordinate actively with local governments, conservation organizations and other partners to administer the new funding swiftly and efficiently. Our past planning, research and coordination

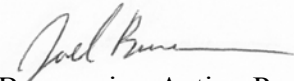


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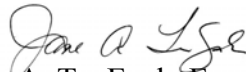
have identified a significant unmet need for restoration actions that clearly justifies the appropriation of the full \$475 million for the GLRI.

The Great Lakes are a vital component of our regional and national economy. The GLRI will create jobs, stimulate economic development and strengthen the national investment in our regional economy. We ask that you maintain your support for this important Initiative.

Sincerely,



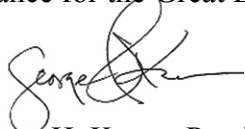
Joel Brammeier, Acting President
and CEO
Alliance for the Great Lakes



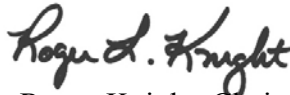
Jane A. TenEyck, Executive
Director, Chippewa Ottawa
Resource Authority



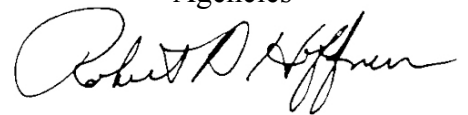
Eric Boysen, Chair
Council of Great Lakes Fishery
Agencies



George H. Kuper, President
Council of Great Lakes Industries



Roger Knight, Chair
Council of Lake Committees



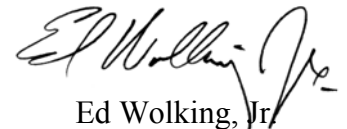
Robert D. Hoffman, Director
Ducks Unlimited Great
Lakes/Atlantic Region



Tim Eder, Executive Director
Great Lakes Commission



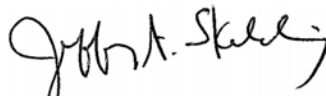
Michael Hansen, Chair
Great Lakes Fishery Commission



Ed Wolking, Jr.
Great Lakes Metropolitan
Chambers Coalition



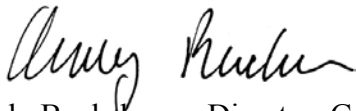
Derek R. Stack, Executive Director
Great Lakes United



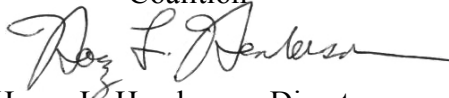
Jeff Skelding, Campaign Director
Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes
Coalition



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