

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
2256 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to respectfully request that you provide \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Great Lakes are truly a national treasure. The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world, holding roughly 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply and 90 percent of the United States' fresh water supply. The Lakes are also an economic driver that supports jobs, commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism for millions of people across the country.

More than a century of environmental damage has taken a significant toll on the Great Lakes, which the GLRI is helping to correct. Since the initiative was launched in 2010, GLRI funds have been used to support almost 3,500 restoration projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitat, clean up environmentally-impaired Areas of Concern, fight invasive species, and prevent beach closings.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is showing real and measurable results, but there is still a great deal of work to do. The Great Lakes Basin is vulnerable to various pollutants and invasive species, which threaten the health of the Great Lakes. For example, in 2014 a toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie forced 400,000 residents in the Toledo area to go without home water service for three days. While there has not been a repeat of shutting down the water system, the blooms are not abating. At the peak of last summer's bloom, over 1,000 square kilometers of Lake Erie was affected. While the GLRI has prioritized monitoring efforts, which help drinking water treatment plant operators and beach managers minimize health impacts associated with these toxic algal blooms, more must be done to better understand and prevent these algal blooms in the future.

The federal government commits significant resources each year to address the challenges the Great Lakes face. In particular, GLRI resources have supplemented agency budgets to fund coordinated efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, and we must ensure that this important work continues. Halting this commitment would reverse years of progress, dramatically reduce the GLRI's impact, and jeopardize the environmental and economic health of the region.

To that end, we urge you to continue this vital investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes by including \$300 million for the GLRI in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

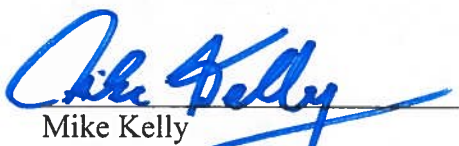
Sincerely,



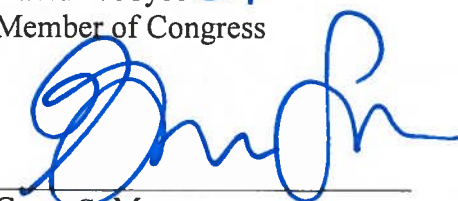
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



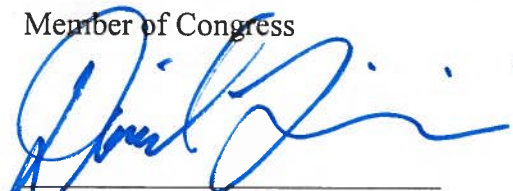
Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



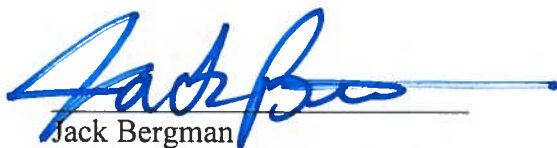
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson Jackie Walorski

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

John Katko

John Katko
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Danny D. Davis

Danny D. Davis
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci

Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



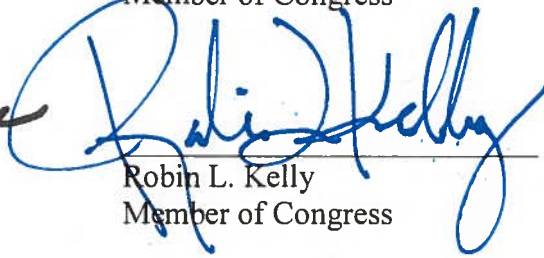
Dave Trott
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



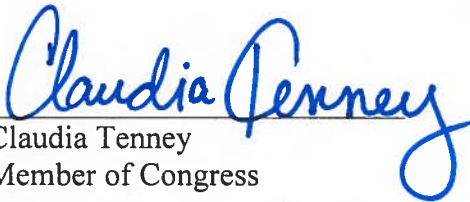
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



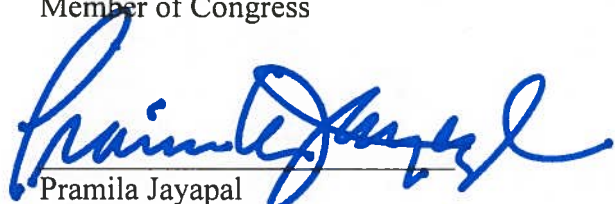
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Peter J. Roskam

Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress