



October 15, 2009

Hon. Daniel K. Inouye, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Dianne Feinstein, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

JIM DOYLE
CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

MITCH DANIELS
Governor of Indiana

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

DAVID A. PATERSON
Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

PAT QUINN
Governor of Illinois

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

TED STRICKLAND
Governor of Ohio

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

Dear Chairman Inouye and Chairwoman Feinstein, and Ranking Members Cochran and Alexander:

The Great Lakes Governors urge you to support funding of \$475 million in the FY 2010 EPA budget for the multi-agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) as you work to resolve differences in conference. The House has included the President's full request of \$475 million in the appropriations bill for the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies and we ask that you accept this funding level.

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. The Great Lakes Governors helped develop this strategy and have consistently called for federal leadership to implement it. Full funding for the GLRI would be a significant step in this regard.

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 Governors have identified high-priority, on-the-ground restoration actions that are ready to be implemented immediately. We 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 have identified a significant unmet need for restoration actions that clearly justifies the appropriation of the full \$475 million for the GLRI.

As Governors, our state budgets reflect the historic, ongoing commitment we have made to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and we thank you for joining us in demonstrating that commitment. We ask that you support full funding for this important Initiative.

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Should you or your staff have questions, please contact me directly, or David Naftzger,
Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors.

Sincerely,

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

Jim Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

CC: Great Lakes Congressional Delegation