



March 18, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

GRETCHEN WHITMER
CHAIR
Governor of Michigan

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

MIKE DEWINE
VICE CHAIR
Governor of Ohio

TONY EVERS
Governor of Wisconsin

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor of New York

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin contains about 20% of the world's surface freshwater and serves as the drinking water source for over 40 million people. Working together, we have made significant progress in protecting and restoring these waters.

ERIC HOLCOMB
Governor of Indiana

JB PRITZKER
Governor of Illinois

In 2003, the Great Lakes Governors came together to identify nine priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection. We then worked with members of Congress, the Administration, our region's Mayors and Tribes, and stakeholders to create the [Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy](#). The Strategy in turn served as the impetus for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which has provided critical funding to advance our priorities and implement the Strategy. We have made significant progress through the GLRI but it is only with continued and consistent funding that we can build on past achievements and ensure the long-term success of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor of Pennsylvania

TIM WALZ
Governor of Minnesota

We therefore ask that you provide no less than \$450 million in FY 2025 in support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). We look forward to continuing our important work together.

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

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

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Chair
Governor of Michigan

Mike DeWine
Vice Chair
Governor of Ohio

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