



May 5, 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

JIM DOYLE
CO-CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

TED STRICKLAND
CO-CHAIR
Governor of Ohio

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

Dear Senator Levin and Representative Ehlers:

As you know, the President committed to a five-year, \$5 billion program to implement the Great Lakes restoration and protection strategy, and we appreciate the inclusion of \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the FY 2010 budget. This funding is a strong start, and sustained, consistent funding is now needed to fulfill the President's promise, maintain momentum, build on past achievements and ensure the GLRI's long-term success.

Therefore, on behalf of the Governors of our nation's Great Lakes States, we would like to express our appreciation and support for the introduction of S. 3073 and H.R. 4755, entitled the "Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act of 2010." We applaud the bills' sponsors and cosponsors for acting to promote Great Lakes restoration and protection, and are heartened by the potential for substantial additional federal funding to that end. The bills are a strong expression of Congressional intent to invest significant additional resources in Great Lakes protection and improvements, while seeking coordination throughout the region.

We will soon present to Congress detailed comments on S. 3073 and H.R. 4755, and appreciate how some of the Great Lakes Governors' key principles have been addressed. As the legislative process moves forward, we will continue to encourage Congress to work toward enactment of these principles:

- Ensure that all funded activities help implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes.
- Coordinate the efforts of the many governmental and non-governmental entities involved in protection and restoration activities.
- Recognize the leadership role of the Great Lakes Governors in defining State and regional priorities.
- Minimize bureaucracy and allow efforts to be directed toward protection and restoration rather than toward process and paperwork. To the greatest extent possible, funding should be distributed via block grants or otherwise coordinated into large grants to States so that monies can be centrally managed and directed to the various agencies and entities managing funding within the State.

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- Adopt alternatives to non-federal match requirements, with the flexibility to recognize ongoing and significant investments by States, other governments and stakeholders in Great Lakes protection and restoration.
- Do not preempt or encroach on existing State management authorities.

We look forward to our continued partnership to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,



Jim Doyle
Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor of Wisconsin



Ted Strickland
Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor of Ohio

CC: Great Lakes States' Congressional Delegation