

U.S. Rep. Kind: Announces \$1 billion investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help restore Great Lakes, accelerate cleanup efforts in Wisconsin

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EPA Projects Work to Be Completed at 22 of 25 Remaining Great Lakes “Areas of Concern” by 2030

La Crosse, WI – Today, **Rep. Ron Kind** announced that as a direct result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will make significant progress in the clean-up and restoration of the Great Lakes’ most environmentally degraded sites, securing clean water and a better environment for millions of Americans in the Great Lakes region. The agency will use the bulk of the \$1 billion investment in the Great Lakes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to clean up and restore severely degraded sites, known as “Areas of Concern” or AOCs. This will allow for a major acceleration of progress that will deliver significant environmental, economic, health, and recreational benefits for communities throughout the Great Lakes region

“Once again, Wisconsin is seeing the impacts of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” said **Rep. Ron Kind**. “This funding will help us clean up some of the Great Lakes’ most polluted sites and deliver huge environmental and economic benefits for

communities across our state. I'm thrilled this funding is headed to the Great Lakes region, and look forward to continuing to see the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law deliver for Wisconsinites."

"The Great Lakes are a vital economic engine and an irreplaceable environmental wonder, supplying drinking water for more than 40 million people, supporting more than 1.3 million jobs, and sustaining life for thousands of species. Through the investments from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will make unprecedented progress in our efforts to restore and protect the waters and the communities of the Great Lakes basin," said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "Building a better America means investing in our natural resources and the communities they support."

In 2018, an independent economic study from the Great Lakes Commission and the University of Michigan found that every Great Lakes Restoration Initiative dollar spent produces an additional \$3.35 of economic activity. For older industrial cities, including AOCs such as Buffalo and Detroit, the study found that there may be more than \$4 in additional economic activity for each federal dollar spent. A 2020 analysis of the Great Lakes determined that the region supports more than 1.3 million jobs, generating \$82 billion in wages annually.

EPA projects that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, combined with funds from annual Great Lakes Restoration Initiative appropriations and funding from other sources, will, between now and the end of 2030, enable the Agency and its partners to bring work to completion across 22 of the 25 remaining AOCs, with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding directly supporting 11 of these sites. In sum this will leave only three of the original 31 U.S. AOCs with work remaining, with those sites also benefiting from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. In the coming months, EPA will release more detailed information on implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for the Great Lakes.

In addition to support from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law directed toward cleaning up the AOCs, EPA will continue the agency's work to address other key issues such as addressing harmful algal blooms, nutrient reduction activities, protecting against invasive species, and monitoring the health of the Great Lakes. EPA anticipates additional resources could be available for these and other priorities because of the infusion of resources from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

To see the full list of Areas of Concerns and anticipated work completion and delisting dates please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/list-great--lakes-aocs>