



Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

For Immediate Release

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Nearly 80 Great Lakes Caucus Legislators Urge Full Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

*Bipartisan group of legislators from across the Great Lakes Basin
urges support for critical federal program*

Racine, WI — This week, nearly 80 members of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (GLLC), a non-partisan, binational group of legislators from eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes, submitted a letter to President Donald Trump urging him to restore the \$300 million dollars in annual funding authorized by Congress for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Co-signers of the caucus letter include legislators from all Great Lakes states and Québec, and both Democrats and Republicans.

The GLLC has strongly supported the GLRI since its inception. Eliminating the GLRI, as proposed by President Trump's Budget Blueprint, will do lasting damage to environmental protection and economic development in the Great Lakes region. The GLRI is responsible for cleaning up three polluted sites in Michigan and Pennsylvania, and for significant progress being made at 13 additional sites in Wisconsin and across the region.

“The GLRI is absolutely essential to preserving the health of our Great Lakes. Without this necessary federal funding, environmental recovery in the Great Lakes will not continue,” said Representative Cory Mason (D-Racine), who serves as GLLC Chair. “The GLRI is also critical in the fight against invasive species in the Great Lakes. There is broad support across the Great Lakes region and the political spectrum for this vital work to continue,” he added.

Slashing GLRI funding also poses a direct and imminent risk to human health. Without reliable access to safe drinking water, the economy of the Great Lakes cannot thrive. In addition, it is doubtful that the United States and Canada will be able to fulfill their obligations to improve water for all residents of the Great Lakes under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

“The Great Lakes are North America's most precious natural resource. Without the GLRI, that resource is in grave jeopardy,” Rep. Mason concluded.

A copy of the GLLC letter opposing cuts to GLRI funding is attached.

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