



August 2, 2006

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
Hart Building 524
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Voinovich:

The Great Lakes Governors and Mayors applaud the Senate's passage of S. 2430 to reauthorize the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. We appreciate the leadership of the Senate sponsors and encourage the House of Representatives to quickly pass companion bill HR 4953.

Through the reauthorization, the members of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) would have increased capacity to implement specific recommendations of the GLRC Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes. While specific project objectives may vary among jurisdictions, the composite results will help attain the regionally important Strategy goals. The Act would help address one of our greatest challenges, protecting and restoring fish and wildlife habitat. We are committed to fulfilling the non-federal costs associated with this Act. Related to this issue, we again ask that you join us in encouraging the Great Lakes Federal Interagency Task Force to complete a review of all federal agencies' wetland management programs to develop a consolidated wetlands restoration and protection approach.

The Great Lakes Governors and Mayors also applaud the introduction of S. 2912, the Great Lakes Coordination and Oversight Act of 2006. This important legislation will formalize our collaborative efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and, we hope, foster continued improvements in the coordination of federal programs through the federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force.

S. 2912 would implement several important administrative measures to accelerate our collaborative efforts. Yet, it is critical that these measures be complementary to, and not a replacement for, near-term action on the ground and in the water to protect and restore our Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Governors and Mayors are acting aggressively toward this end and we again encourage Congress to enact the authorizations, appropriations and other measures outlined in our joint March 10 letter to Congress. As has been made clear

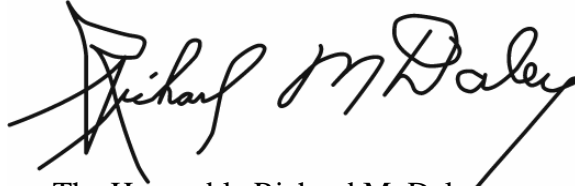
through our collaborative efforts, some of our most pressing challenges can only be addressed through additional resources.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on our shared efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Should you or your staff have any questions, our staff contacts are David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors at (312) 407-0177 and David Ullrich, Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative at (312) 201-4516.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Jim Doyle
Governor of Wisconsin
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors



The Honorable Richard M. Daley
Mayor, City of Chicago
Founding Chair, Great Lakes and St.
Lawrence Cities Initiative

Attachment