



October 15, 2009

Hon. David R. Obey, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-218 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

JIM DOYLE  
CHAIR  
*Governor of Wisconsin*

Hon. Norman D. Dicks, Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Mike Simpson, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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*

TED STRICKLAND  
*Governor of Ohio*

Dear Chairmen Obey and Dicks, and Ranking Members Lewis and Simpson:

The Great Lakes Governors urge you to maintain full funding of \$475 million in the FY 2010 EPA budget for the multi-agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) as you work to resolve differences in conference. We applaud you for including the President's full request in the appropriations bill for the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

The GLRI builds on priorities and recommendations established in 2005 in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes, a comprehensive plan that defines the problems facing the lakes, outlines solutions and provides clear goals for measuring progress. The Great Lakes Governors helped develop this strategy and have consistently called for federal leadership to implement it. Full funding for the GLRI would be a significant step in this regard.

The Great Lakes region is well organized and prepared to target the full \$475 million to the most urgent problems facing the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Governors have identified high-priority, on-the-ground restoration actions that are ready to be implemented immediately. We are prepared to coordinate actively with local governments, conservation organizations and other partners to administer the new funding swiftly and efficiently. Our past planning, research and coordination have identified a significant unmet need for restoration actions that clearly justifies the appropriation of the full \$475 million for the GLRI.

As Governors, our state budgets reflect the historic, ongoing commitment we have made to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and we thank you for joining us in demonstrating that commitment. We ask that you support full funding for this important Initiative.

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Doyle  
Governor, State of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

CC: Great Lakes Congressional Delegation