

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army - Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor and Acting Director Young:

As members of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, we applaud your efforts to fund projects critical to the Great Lakes Basin using the appropriations included as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117- 58). We write to urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Administration to build on this progress by including funding in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request for the following projects, which are of great importance to the Great Lakes and to our state and regional economies.

- **Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study**

The Great Lakes coastline faces numerous threats, such as lake level fluctuations, erosion, flooding, nutrient runoff, and aging infrastructure. A comprehensive plan is needed to help our states and local communities deal with these challenges and strengthen the resiliency of the Great Lakes coastline.

For several years, the USACE has sought to initiate the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study. Developed in consultation with Great Lakes states and other federal and non-federal partners, the study would result in a coordinated strategy to identify, manage, and protect the Great Lakes and its 5,200-mile coastline. By giving our region information it needs to make effective and impactful decisions, this study is critical to supporting the Great Lakes ecosystem and the economies that depend upon it.

The study was first authorized in the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-270). The Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (Division AA of P.L. 116-260) further directed the USACE to proceed with this study. The Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study is needed more today than ever.

To enable this study to proceed, we ask that full funding be included in the FY2023 budget and for the study to be deemed a new start, if necessary.

- **Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) Program**

The Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) program enables the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use its planning, design, and construction expertise for projects to restore the Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem. A wide range of environmental projects can be funded under this program, including restoration of riparian and wetland habitat, dam

removal to reestablish free-flowing tributaries, construction of fish passage over existing structures, improving spawning and nursery habitat, and erosion and sedimentation control.

We understand that an implementation plan for the GLFER program has been developed and submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review. We respectfully request that you include \$15 million for this important program in the FY 2023 budget request.

Thank you both for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



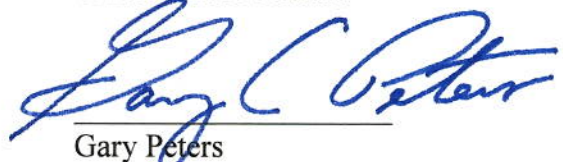
Richard J. Durbin
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Gary Peters
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Tina Smith
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