

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Michael Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

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

Dear Administrator Regan and Acting Director Young:

As you work to develop the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget, we write to encourage the Administration to request the authorized level of \$400 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

The bipartisan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-294) was signed into law in January 2021 to reauthorize the GLRI through FY 2026. The law authorizes \$400 million for GLRI in FY 2023. The Great Lakes are a national treasure, providing drinking water for more than 40 million people and generating \$52 billion annually for the region.

As you know, our region is successfully undertaking one of the nation's largest restoration efforts. Since its inception in 2010, the GLRI has provided over \$2.9 billion in funding across more than 6,000 projects to combat the greatest threats to the Great Lakes, including invasive species, harmful algal blooms, toxic contamination, and loss of fish and wildlife habitats.

However, there is still much work that needs to be done. Aging sewers, invasive species, harmful algal blooms, and toxic pollutants are just a few of the pervasive threats that impact the region. Rapidly fluctuating water levels and unprecedented erosion are threatening public safety, shorelines, infrastructure, housing, tourism, and even one of our newest national parks. Robust funding for the GLRI is necessary to meet these challenges. As a result of the partnership we have with federal agencies and on the local, state, and regional level, our region is making progress and seeing results.

The GLRI is a results-driven, cooperative restoration effort. Its continued success depends on the collaboration between all levels of government and private and non-governmental partners. We therefore ask that you include the authorized level of \$400 million for the GLRI in the FY 2023 budget request.

Thank you both for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



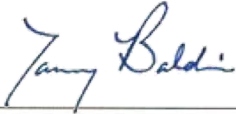
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



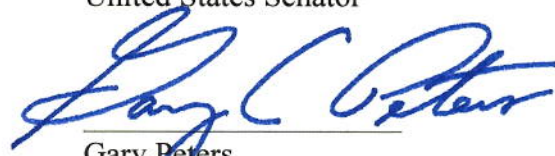
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Gary Peters  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



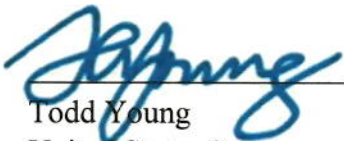
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator