



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Governor Pat Quinn  
Springfield Illinois

VICE CHAIR

Todd Amb  
Administrator  
Division of Water  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
Madison, Wisconsin

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Lt. Governor John D. Cherry, Jr.  
Lansing, Michigan

David Phippen

Policy Director  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Office of the Governor  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Ken DeBeaussiaert

Director  
Office of the Great Lakes  
Mich. Dept. of Environ. Quality  
Lansing, Michigan

Thomas E. Huntley

Minnesota State Representative  
Duluth, Minnesota

Alexander B. Grannis

Commissioner  
New York Dept. of Environmental  
Conservation  
Albany, New York

Sean Logan

Director  
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources  
Columbus, Ohio

William Carr

Manager  
International Relations & Policy  
Office of Intn'l Relations & Protocol  
Toronto, Ontario

Kelly Burch

Regional Director  
Northwest Regional Office  
PA Dept. of Envir. Protection  
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Marc T. Boucher

Québec Government Representative  
Chicago, Illinois

March 30, 2009

**Re: Budget Resolution – Support for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

Dear Member of the Senate Great Lakes Delegation:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Commission and its member states, I urge you to support the inclusion of \$475 million in the EPA budget for FY 2010 for a multi-agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative proposed by President Obama and being advanced in the Senate Budget Resolution by members of the Senate Great Lakes delegation. The Commission applauds this important initiative, which we hope will enhance the federal government's ability to be an equal partner with the Great Lakes states and other stakeholders in restoring the Great Lakes and advancing our region's economic revitalization.

The Great Lakes are a vital element of our regional and national economy. But, their value is compromised by invasive species, water pollution, degraded habitat for fish and wildlife, and a legacy of toxic contaminants in our rivers and harbors. Halting the introduction and spread of invasive species, reducing pollution, cleaning up toxic hot spots and restoring valuable fish and wildlife resources will ensure that the lakes support the people and communities that depend on them. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is an unprecedented opportunity to help our region address these challenges, while creating jobs and stimulating economic development.

Last month, the Great Lakes Commission transmitted to Congress its recommendations for policy changes and funding needed to address the challenges facing the Great Lakes (see <http://www.glc.org/restore/>). The President's proposed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, if funded by Congress, could fulfill many of our recommendations. **We urge you to include funding for the Initiative in the FY 2010 Congressional Budget Resolution and to provide appropriations to carry out the Initiative in collaboration with other federal agencies, the Great Lakes states and other partners.**

The Great Lakes Commission looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to advance the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. If you have questions, please contact the Commission's executive director, Tim Eder, at 734-971-9135 or by email at [teder@glc.org](mailto:teder@glc.org).

Sincerely,

Governor Pat Quinn  
Chairman