



Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

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*Ensuring environmental and
economic prosperity for the Great
Lakes-St. Lawrence region through
communications, policy research and
development, and advocacy.*

ACTION ALERT!

September 24, 2004

Dear Senator:

We are writing on behalf of the eight state Great Lakes Commission to urge your support for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, authorized under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill.) **We ask you to work with your Great Lakes colleagues, and members of the appropriations conference committee, to restore funding by matching the House- recommended appropriations of \$2.5 million, representing level funding of this critically important program.**

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control helps restore and protect the Great Lakes by improving water quality and land use productivity. It features a unique, targeted approach that has supported over 300 demonstration and technical assistance grants to state and local governments in all eight Great Lakes states. Since its inception in 1991, the program has directed more than \$9.0 million to such projects and leveraged another \$6.5 million in nonfederal funds. The results have been impressive and carefully quantified, reflected in water quality improvements, significantly reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, more sustainable and productive agricultural practices, and a better informed public. A fact sheet is attached for your reference.

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control is a success story that addresses nonpoint source pollution from agricultural and urban areas, a problem recognized regionwide as a restoration and protection priority for the Great Lakes Basin. **As a leader and advocate for the Great Lakes region, we appreciate your efforts to ensure that this program receives level funding of \$2.5 million for FY 2005.** We appreciate your leadership and invite you to contact us should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Speck
Chairman
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