



# 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:

The Great Lakes Water Level Observation Network (GLWLON), a series of gauging stations maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is essential to the safety of commercial and recreational navigation, as well as an important decision support tool for environmental protection and resource management activities. **For this reason, we are writing on behalf of the eight state Great Lakes Commission to urge your support for a \$1.987 million appropriation (level funding) for GLWLON in FY 2005.**

Last year, Congressional support at this level was instrumental in upgrading and maintaining the network to allow for real-time water level observations. This service, particularly critical in times of lower than average water levels, is relied upon by commercial vessels as well as recreational boaters. Additionally, it has proved to be an invaluable source of data and information for research and management activities addressing functions and uses of the Great Lakes system. Your support and leadership is critical to the continued enhancement and operation of the network.

Support at the requested level is consistent with the House recommendation for FY 2005. We urge you, and your Great Lakes colleagues, to support this critically important network. We appreciate your leadership and your recognition of the national and international significance of the Great Lakes basin. Should you have questions, we invite you to contact us.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Speck  
Chairman  
(614) 265-6565

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