



Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

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Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.

August 30, 2004

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

Dear Senate/House Member:

We are writing on behalf of the Great Lakes Commission to urge you to support a \$45.0 million appropriation for implementation of the Great Lakes Legacy Act in FY 2005. Our membership, which includes delegations from the eight Great Lakes states, views the cleanup of designated Areas of Concern as a critically important component of efforts to restore, protect and ensure the sustainable use of our water and related natural resources in the Great Lakes. The House Appropriations Committee, however, is recommending only \$10.0 million in the coming fiscal year, a level that falls far short of the documented cleanup requirements at the 31 designated Areas of Concern in the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes basin. We urge you, and your Great Lakes colleagues, to help "restore the greatness" to the Great Lakes by supporting the Administration's budget request of \$45.0 million in FY 2005 for the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

Passed in 2002, the Great Lakes Legacy Act is the cornerstone of the Areas of Concern cleanup program. It addresses an ecosystem restoration need that has been widely embraced in the Great Lakes region and identified as a significant appropriations priority of the governors of the eight Great Lakes states. A \$45.0 million appropriation in FY 2005 will provide the necessary foundation for meeting the federal government's long-term commitment to restoring beneficial uses at these contaminated sites. We believe that such an appropriation is best viewed as an investment in the health of our ecosystem, our citizens, and our economy. The return on that investment will be substantial over the long term.

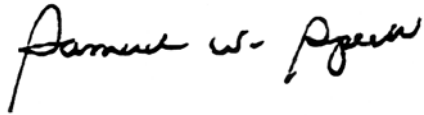
The need for this appropriation is beyond question. Federal support for such cleanup efforts has declined by more than 75 percent since the early 1990s. Further, this year U.S. EPA has received applications for 14 cleanup projects under the Great Lakes Legacy Act, totaling more than \$80 million in federal funds, for the \$10 million presently available under the Act. If fully funded, these projects would remediate an estimated two million cubic yards of toxic sediments in the Great Lakes and leverage more than \$60 million in non-federal funds.

The Great Lakes are now enjoying a much-enhanced profile both regionally and nationally. Thanks to your efforts, and those of your colleagues, broad-based consensus is emerging on a vision for the Great Lakes, and the actions needed for their restoration, protection and sustainable use. We believe that a \$45.0 million appropriation for Great Lakes Legacy Act implementation will provide an excellent foundation for future initiatives while demonstrating a timely and meaningful Congressional commitment to the Lakes and the tens of millions of people who benefit from them.

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We appreciate your consideration and, again, urge you to work with your Senate and House colleagues to secure these much-needed Great Lakes Legacy Act funds. Should you have questions, we invite you to contact us at the numbers provided below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel W. Speck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Samuel W. Speck, Chairman
Great Lakes Commission
(614-265-6565)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Donahue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.
President/Chief Executive Officer
(734-971-9135)