



January 22, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on behalf of the undersigned organizations to urge you to maintain or exceed funding of \$475 million in the FY 2011 EPA budget for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). We appreciate your strong commitment to the Great Lakes and the funding provided in the current fiscal year toward this end. While the GLRI is off to a strong start, we need sustained funding to fulfill your commitment, build on past investments and ensure the GLRI's long-term success.

The Great Lakes region is united in support of the GLRI, an unprecedented, multi-year restoration program aimed at restoring the largest freshwater resource in the world. The Initiative implements a comprehensive cleanup plan developed under the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and broadly endorsed by Great Lakes governors, states, cities, tribes, conservation groups, business, and industry.

Substantial efforts have been invested during the past year to develop the GLRI and prepare for its funding and implementation. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has led a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to coordinate federal programs and has developed a detailed, five-year action plan. The EPA and several other agencies have released large, competitive requests for proposals to begin implementing the GLRI.

Within our region, the Great Lakes states, local governments, nongovernmental organizations and others have identified specific restoration priorities in their jurisdictions and are ramping up the capacity needed to address them under the GLRI. Despite the severe budget constraints facing our region, we are committed to doing our part and investing the resources necessary to make the GLRI a success.

In brief, the GLRI is off to a strong start and substantial momentum is in place to carry the Initiative forward throughout its five-year timeframe. As you finalize your FY 2011 budget, we urge you to maintain full funding for the GLRI to build on the tremendous work done over the past year and uphold this unprecedented commitment to the eight-state Great Lakes region. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Joel Brammeier, President and CEO
Alliance for the Great Lakes

Jane A. TenEyck, Executive Director,
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

Mike Morencie, Chair
Council of Great Lakes Fishery Agencies

George H. Kuper, President
Council of Great Lakes Industries

Roger Knight, Chair
Council of Lake Committees

Robert D. Hoffman, Director
Ducks Unlimited Great Lakes Region

Tim Eder, Executive Director
Great Lakes Commission

Michael Hansen, Chair
Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Ed Wolking, Jr., Great Lakes
Metro Chambers Coalition

Derek R. Stack, Executive Director
Great Lakes United

Jeff Skelding, Campaign Director
Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition

Lynn McClure, Midwest Regional Director,
National Parks Conservation Association

Andy Buchsbaum, Director, Great Lakes
Regional Center, National Wildlife Federation

Henry L. Henderson, Director, Midwest
Region, Natural Resources Defense Council

Helen Taylor, State Director, Michigan
The Nature Conservancy

