



# Shared Priorities for Sustaining the Great Lakes Basin: Restoration, Revitalization and Resilience

March 2020



Great Lakes Fishery  
Commission



Great Lakes and  
St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Chippewa Ottawa  
Resource Authority



GREAT LAKES METRO CHAMBERS COALITION



AMERICAN  
GREAT LAKES PORTS  
ASSOCIATION



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Legislative Caucus



**Restoring and protecting the Great Lakes is an enduring, bipartisan priority for the nation and for Great Lakes Basin communities. Our organizations support these priorities to sustain progress, build resilience and maintain the Great Lakes as an environmental treasure, innovation hub and economic engine.**

## Maintain bipartisan support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Reauthorize the program by passing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019 (H.R. 4031/S. 2295).
- Appropriate at least \$320 million for the GLRI in FY 2021 to restore and protect the Great Lakes and revitalize Basin communities.
- Ensure key federal programs have the capacity to support Great Lakes restoration work.

## Invest in drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure

- Boost funding from FY 2020 levels for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program.
- Improve monitoring and cleanup of PFAS contamination at military bases, airports and other hot spots.
- Support flexible financing for utilities and ensure affordability and community benefits for ratepayers.
- Promote green infrastructure to address stormwater runoff and achieve water quality and habitat benefits from infrastructure investments.

## Strengthen Great Lakes ports and the maritime transportation system

- Maintain and upgrade commercial ports, locks and other navigation infrastructure and recreational harbors, including funding for a new Soo lock and adequate icebreaking capacity using ecologically protective and sustainable measures.

## Support Farm Bill conservation programs to reduce nutrient pollution that causes harmful algal blooms

- Fully fund the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and other Farm Bill conservation programs to target resources to the Great Lakes Basin and support farmers working to improve water quality and protect wildlife habitat.

## Protect the Great Lakes Basin from Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species

- Fully fund the Asian Carp Action Plan and other programs to prevent and control AIS, including the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's sea lamprey control program and monitoring and eradication of grass carp.
- Authorize the Army Corps of Engineers Brandon Road Chief's Report and fund preconstruction engineering and design for the project. The nonfederal cost share for construction should reflect the project's national importance.
- The Army Corps of Engineers should work with Illinois and the other Great Lakes states and stakeholders to effectively implement the Brandon Road project.

## Incorporate resilience into federal programs and policies

- Fund the Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study to identify ways to safeguard coastal communities from erosion, flooding and other impacts from changing lake levels.
- Congress and federal agencies should coordinate and implement policies that foster resilient and sustainable communities, waters, shorelines and ecosystems, agriculture and food production, infrastructure, economies, and transportation systems.

Photos, left to right: Indiana Dunes National Park on Lake Michigan ©flickr/Tom Gill; fishing for muskellunge (muskie) in Wisconsin ©Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; girl drinking water ©shutterstock; the bulk carrier *Alpena* in the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, ©Doug Herdman.