

January 23, 2019

Dear Representative or Senator:

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, welcome to the 116th Congress! We look forward to working with you to preserve, protect, and restore our Great Lakes—a resource that more than 30 million Americans depend on for their drinking water.

Since 2004, our Coalition of over 150 non-governmental organizations has successfully fought to implement a strong Great Lakes restoration plan with federal funds to clean up toxic pollution that threatens people and wildlife, reduce polluted runoff that causes harmful algal blooms, stop invasive species that harm fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation, reverse habitat destruction that harms the environment and hurts the economy, and fix the region's aging infrastructure. Federal investments are producing results in communities across our eight-state region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

Even with the results we are seeing, serious threats remain. Our changing climate is exacerbating all our region's challenges. Great Lakes rivers and harbors are still contaminated with toxic sediment, stunting the development and threatening the health of too many Great Lakes communities. Harmful runoff from farm fields continues to pollute our waters causing toxic algae that threatens water systems, public health, and economic vitality. Habitat loss and aquatic invasive species continue to damage our region's outdoor way of life. And communities across the Great Lakes region continue to grapple with crumbling, antiquated drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and are faced with a staggering \$179 billion over the next 20 years for needed improvements, upgrades, and repairs in the eight-state region. Many of these threats disproportionately impact people that have historically borne the brunt of environmental injustice underscoring an urgency to address these issues for everyone in the region.

We have solutions to these problems. Congress must continue to fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), Farm Bill conservation programs, and other fundamental restoration programs that produce results. Congressional investments can help communities replace lead pipes, address emerging contaminants like PFAS, end polluted stormwater runoff, and keep water affordable and safe for everyone. Congress must support action to stop Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species from invading the Great Lakes. Congress must support mitigating the damage from climate pollution to help the Great Lakes adapt to a changing climate. We also need strong clean water protections, as well as institutions that are adequately staffed and funded to enforce protections that we all depend on.

Urgent action is needed to preserve, protect, and restore the Great Lakes because the longer we wait, the more expensive and difficult it is to solve the problems facing the region. We are ready to help you. Please do not hesitate to contact our Coalition's policy director, Chad Lord, to talk about how we can help achieve our shared goals. He can be reached at (202) 454-3385 or clord@npca.org.

Congratulations on your election.

Sincerely,

Sam Wright
Research Co-Chair
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie

Joel Brammeier
President & CEO
Alliance for the Great Lakes

Katie Rousseau
Director, Clean Water Supply, Great Lakes
American Rivers

Marnie Urso
Policy Director
Audubon Great Lakes

Rebecca Sanders
Vice President, Great Lakes & Upper
Mississippi Flyway
Audubon Minnesota

Ana Paula Tavares
Executive Director
Audubon New York

Rev Edward Pinkney
President/CEO
Black Autonomy Network Community
Organization

Jill Crafton
Treasurer
Bush Lake Chapter of Izaak Walton League

Brian Smith
Associate Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Barbara J. Warren
Executive Director
Citizens' Environmental Coalition

Steve Schultz
Water Program Coordinator
Clean Water Action

Mark Redsten
President & CEO
Clean Wisconsin

Bryan Stubbs
Executive Director
Cleveland Water Alliance

Amy R. Boyd
President
Columbus Audubon

Rob Mrowka
President
Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County

Nels Paulsen
Policy Director
Conservation Minnesota

Amy Beyer
Director
Conservation Resource Alliance

Michele Arquette-Palermo
Head of the Freshwater Forum
Cranbrook Institute of Science

Joe Tomandl
Executive Director
Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship

William Schleizer
Chief Executive Officer
Delta Institute

James N. Bull
Environmental Policy Coordinator
Detroit Audubon

Gildo Tori
Director
Ducks Unlimited

Tom McKarns
Business Owner and President
ECO PHYSICS, INC.

Rebecca Meuninck
Deputy Director
Ecology Center

Tim Schaefer
Director
Environment Minnesota

Howard A. Learner
President
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Liz Kirkwood
Executive Director
For Love of Water (FLOW)

Jessica Schultz
Executive Director
Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

Mrs. Alicia Smith
Associate Policy Director
Freshwater Future

Jill Schanon Macek
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Friends of Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

Marie McCormick
Executive Director
Friends of the Rouge

Mike Carlson
Executive Director
Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for
Land Trusts

San Juana "Juani" Olivares
President & CEO
Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative

June Summers
President
Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Kelli Paige
Executive Director
Great Lakes Observing System

Stephanie Prellwitz
Executive Director
Green Lake Association

James Buitter
National Director
Griffith Izaak Walton League of America

Ivan J Hack Jr
Chapter President
Headwaters Chapter Izaak Walton League of
America

Sr. Rose Therese, Louise Nolta
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC

Indra Frank
Director of Environmental Health and Water
Policy
Hoosier Environmental Council

Brad Jensen
Executive Director
Huron Pines

Laura Rubin
Executive Director
Huron River Watershed Council

Darwin Adams
Chairman
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited

Emily Wood
Executive Director
Indiana Wildlife Federation

Michael Twiss
President
International Association for Great Lakes
Research

Don E. Robertson
Penn State President & National Director
Izaak Walton League of America

Robert Stegmier
Past National Director
Izaak Walton League of America, Dwight
Lydell Chapter

Rick Graham
National Great Lakes Committee Chairman
Izaak Walton League of America, Great Lakes
Committee

Craig Sterle
President
Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota
Division

Elaine Graham
Ohio Division President
Izaak Walton League of America, Ohio Division

Michal Hamilton
Vice President
Junction Coalition

Patty Hoch-Melluish
Coordinator
Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

Sandy Bihn
Executive Director
Lake Erie Waterkeeper

Jim Kettler
Executive Director
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

Bonnie Cox
President
League of Women Voters Illinois

Krista Grimm
President
League of Women Voters Lake Michigan
Region

Oscar Anderson & Patsy Hoyer
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Indiana

Judy Karandjeff
President
League of Women Voters of Michigan

Erin Grunze
Executive Director
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Shannon Stuckey
Paralegal
Maurice & Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic
& Social Justice

James Clift
Policy Director
Michigan Environmental Council

Lisa K. Wozniak
Executive Director
Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Dennis H. Eade
Executive Director
Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's
Association

John Ropp
President/CEO
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy

Kimberlee Wright
Executive Director
Midwest Environmental Advocates

Kimberly Gleffe
Executive Director
Milwaukee River Revitalization Foundation

Cheryl Nenn
Riverkeeper
Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Brenda Coley
Co-Executive Director
Milwaukee Water Commons

Darrell Gerber
Policy Analyst
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Jason Dinsmore
Interim Executive Director
Minnesota Conservation Federation

Steve Morse
Executive Director
Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Marnie Urso
Policy Director, Audubon Great Lakes
National Audubon Society

Lynn McClure
Senior Director Regional Operations
National Parks Conservation Association

Mike Shriberg
Regional Executive Director, Great Lakes
National Wildlife Federation

Melinda Hughes
President
Nature Abounds

Matt Misicka
President
Ohio Conservation Federation

Kristy Meyer
Vice President of Policy, Natural Resources
Ohio Environmental Council

Mark Dilley
President
Ohio Wetlands Association

Alison Kocek
President
Onondaga Audubon

Irene Senn
Coordinator
Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes

Robert Stegmier
Board member
Rogue River Watershed Partners

Lori Andresen
President
Save Our Sky Blue Waters

Natalie Johnson
Executive Director
Save the Dunes

John Peach
Executive Director
Save The River

Robin Schachat
National Affairs and Legislation Chair
Shaker Lakes Garden Club

Andrea Densham
Senior Director Conservation Policy &
Advocacy
Shedd Aquarium

Dalal Aboulhosn
Deputy Legislative Director
Sierra Club

Bowden Quinn
Director
Sierra Club - Hoosier Chapter

Bill Davis
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

Gail Philbin
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Michigan Chapter

Joan Mary Atkinson
Office for Systemic Justice
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Phyllis Tierney
Sister
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester Justice &
Peace Office

Florence Deacon OSF
Congregation Justice Coordinator
Sisters of the Holy Cross

Todd Ambs
Chair
Southeast Wisconsin Watersheds Trust

Tony Janisch
Executive Director
Superior Rivers Watershed Association

Michal T. Hamilton
Vice President
The Junction Coalition

Christine Crissman
Executive Director
The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay

Jennifer McKay
Policy Director
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Taylor Ridderbusch
Great Lakes Organizer
Trout Unlimited

Dendra J. Best
Executive Director
Wastewater Education 501(c)3

Bill Wood
Executive Director
West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Lynda Schneekloth
Advocacy Chair
Western New York Environmental Alliance

Rich Cochran
President & CEO
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Jennifer Giegerich
Government Affairs Director
Wisconsin Conservation Voters

Diane Lembck
President
Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society

Linn Beck
State Council Chair
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Tracy Hames
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation