



April 7, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

JIM DOYLE
CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

MITCH DANIELS
Governor of Indiana

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

DAVID A. PATERSON
Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

PAT QUINN
Governor of Illinois

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

TED STRICKLAND
Governor of Ohio

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

Dear President Obama:

The Great Lakes Governors applaud your recent proposals in support of Great Lakes restoration and protection. Specifically, we thank you for your support for increased wastewater infrastructure funding and your proposal for a new Great Lakes restoration initiative. Together, we have the potential to greatly accelerate our shared efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

As you know, improving wastewater infrastructure, preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species, reducing polluted runoff and cleaning up contaminated sediment are among our greatest challenges. New federal funding to help deal with these issues can help jumpstart our efforts while creating immediate economic and environmental benefits for our region and our country.

We are eager to accelerate our efforts in partnership with your Administration and Congress. I was pleased to meet recently with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to discuss opportunities where we believe we can work together to further develop joint proposals related to Great Lakes restoration and protection. By working collaboratively, we can develop solutions that best leverage existing resources while efficiently deploying new funding, leading to maximal economic and environmental outcomes. As the Governors have stressed over the past several years, we must enact a framework that encompasses several overarching principles:

- minimal bureaucracy, allowing efforts to be directed toward protection and restoration rather than toward process and paperwork;
- coordination of the efforts of the many government and non-governmental entities involved in protection and restoration activities;
- recognition of the leadership role of the Great Lakes Governors in defining regional priorities; and,
- affordable non-federal match requirements, particularly in light of ongoing and significant State investments in Great Lakes restoration.

35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

Voice: 312-407-0177
Fax: 312-407-0038
Web: www.cglg.org
e-mail: cglg@cglg.org

As Governors, the collective support of our budgets reflects our seriousness in restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and we thank you for joining us in demonstrating that commitment. Should you or your staff have questions, please contact me directly, or David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors