October 15, 2009

Hon. Daniel K. Inouye, Chair  Hon. Thad Cochran, Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-131 The Capitol  S-146A The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510  Washington, D.C. 20510  

Hon. Dianne Feinstein, Chair  Hon. Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior,  Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment and Related Agencies  Environment and Related Agencies  
Senate Appropriations Committee  Senate Appropriations Committee  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  123 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Chairman Inouye and Chairwoman Feinstein, and Ranking Members Cochran and Alexander:

The Great Lakes Governors urge you to support funding of $475 million in the FY 2010 EPA budget for the multi-agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) as you work to resolve differences in conference. The House has included the President’s full request of $475 million in the appropriations bill for the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies and we ask that you accept this funding level.

The GLRI builds on priorities and recommendations established in 2005 in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes, a comprehensive plan that defines the problems facing the lakes, outlines solutions and provides clear goals for measuring progress. The Great Lakes Governors helped develop this strategy and have consistently called for federal leadership to implement it. Full funding for the GLRI would be a significant step in this regard.

The Great Lakes region is well organized and prepared to target the full $475 million to the most urgent problems facing the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Governors have identified high-priority, on-the-ground restoration actions that are ready to be implemented immediately. We are prepared to coordinate actively with local governments, conservation organizations and other partners to administer the new funding swiftly and efficiently. Our past planning, research and coordination have identified a significant unmet need for restoration actions that clearly justifies the appropriation of the full $475 million for the GLRI.

As Governors, our state budgets reflect the historic, ongoing commitment we have made to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and we thank you for joining us in demonstrating that commitment. We ask that you support full funding for this important Initiative.

Sincerely,

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

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
Should you or your staff have questions, please contact me directly, or David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Great Lakes Congressional Delegation