



Congress of the United States
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January 31, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to thank you for your past support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and to ask that you prioritize funding for this program in your Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. The Great Lakes play a large part in the economic success of the Midwest. Beyond their economic benefits, the Great Lakes are immensely important to the environmental health of the states that surround them. The GLRI has been a vital program that helps states restore and promote healthy ecosystems while supporting local job creation and tourism.

As you know, the Great Lakes are the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world. Unfortunately, this vital natural resource faces considerable challenges. These threats include invasive species like the Asian Carp and high-water levels that are eroding shorelines from Wisconsin to New York. Lakeside properties and infrastructure are in danger of being lost and the Asian Carp has the potential to devastate the \$7 billion fishing industry of the Great Lakes. From Kenosha to Racine Counties, the Great Lakes are an integral part of our communities' economic and environmental wellbeing. We must continue to take steps to protect and strengthen this resource.

The GLRI has been instrumental in assisting states with restoring the Great Lakes ecosystem. Since its implementation in 2010, this program has demonstrated a proven track record of success. There has also been bipartisan support in Congress for this program and there was even a \$20 million increase in funding for the program in the FY 2020 government funding bill you signed last year.

These new threats and the GLRI's record of success make your support of the program a smart investment. I again want to thank you for your past support for the Great Lakes. Robust GLRI funding in your budget this year will help keep the progress we have made to protect the Great Lakes going. I look forward to working with you to protect this treasured resource for generations to come and keep moving America forward.

Sincerely,

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress