



Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition

December 7, 2016

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Inhofe and Ranking Members DeFazio and Boxer:

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, I want thank you for including the many important Great Lakes provisions in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act amendment to S. 612. Our coalition asks Congress to finish work on this bill and remove any last-minute, controversial provisions that could cause delay.

The WIIN bill includes many Great Lakes priorities that will support the restoration and protection of the source of drinking water for over 30 million people. First and foremost, the bill includes the House-passed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016. This bill reauthorizes the GLRI for five years at \$300 million annually, investing \$1.5 billion in projects that are successfully cleaning up contaminated sediments in Great Lakes harbors, stopping the spread of invasive species like Asian carp, and restoring thousands of acres of wetlands and riverbanks to provide habitat for waterfowl and to prevent nutrient runoff that feeds harmful algal blooms.

This bill also reauthorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act and makes important changes to the Army Corps' Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration program. The bill also prohibits contaminated dredged sediments from being disposed in the open waters of Lake Erie.

WIIN also includes important provisions to help communities address lead and other contaminants in their drinking water. It authorizes \$170 million to states where an emergency has been declared to fix and replace lead pipes and other infrastructure. This means Flint, Mich., finally gets help in providing safe drinking water to its people. It also includes important public notice improvements and assistance to small communities and schools and child care centers in order to protect children's health.

These are all very important provisions to help protect and restore our Great Lakes. The HOW Coalition hopes Congress continues to support these provisions, avoids any controversial delays, and finishes work on WIIN before it adjourns this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 454-3385 or clord@npca.org with questions.

Sincerely,

Todd Ambs
Campaign Director