December 8, 2016

Dear Member of Congress:

The Alliance for the Great Lakes supports several provisions in the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation (WIIN) Act that are good for the Great Lakes and the people who depend on them for their way of life. The Alliance for the Great Lakes works across the Great Lakes region to protect the Great Lakes for today and tomorrow. We involve tens of thousands of people each year in advocacy, volunteering, education, and research to ensure the lakes are healthy and safe for all people.

Specifically, the Alliance for the Great Lakes supports the following provisions of the WIIN Act:

- The five-year authorization for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a program with broad bipartisan and public support that is critical to the cleanup of legacy contamination, prevention of invasive species, reduction in water pollution and addressing other critical issues impacting the Great Lakes;
- The creation of a Harmful Algal Bloom Coordinator, a position that will ensure that funding and other resources are used effectively and efficiently and that federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, universities and non-governmental organizations are working collaboratively to reduce phosphorus flowing into the Great Lakes;
- Funding authorization for safe drinking water and health programs that will aid Flint, Michigan in recovering from the impacts of lead-contaminated drinking water; and
- Removal of the funding cap and creation of additional flexibility within the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes appreciates the efforts of the House and Senate to develop legislation together that addresses these critical Great Lakes needs. We recognize that we have many stalwart champions of the Great Lakes in our Congressional delegation and we are grateful for their support. Thank you for your consideration of these provisions.

Sincerely,

Joel Brammeier
President and CEO