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*Ensuring environmental and
economic prosperity for the Great
Lakes-St. Lawrence region through
communications, policy research and
development, and advocacy.*

May 24, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water
Resources and Environment
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water
Resources and Environment
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Gibbs, and Ranking Members DeFazio and Napolitano:

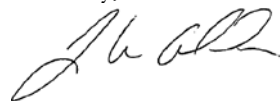
I am writing to express the Great Lakes Commission's support for provisions in the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 that will strengthen the Great Lakes Navigation System and the vital role it plays in the economy of the eight-state Great Lakes region.

The 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act included provisions that are critical for maintaining the long-term economic viability of the Great Lakes Navigation System (GLNS), including an allocation of 10 percent of annual "priority" Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) spending for the Great Lakes. To ensure the provision is properly implemented, however, the GLNS allocation should be formally authorized, similar to how the 2014 bill authorized funding for "emerging harbors." We urge you to include language providing this needed direction to the House Appropriations Committee.

We also urge you to ensure continued authorization for construction of a second "Poe-sized" lock at the Sault Ste. Marie, MI lock complex (Soo Locks) operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Only design and site preparation work has been conducted for this project to date. The USACE is conducting a new economic analysis under revised assumptions for this project, which has delayed the overall process. We ask that this study process move forward as quickly as possible and that the existing authorization for this project be maintained.

The WRDA bill is an important opportunity to advance provisions that will ensure the GLNS continues to serve as a vital asset for the economy of the Great Lakes region. We appreciate your support for these priorities of the member states of the Great Lakes Commission. If you have questions, please contact the Commission's Executive Director, Tim Eder (734-971-9135, teder@glc.org).

Sincerely,



Jon W. Allan, Chair

cc: Members of the House Great Lakes delegation