

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

March 8, 2023

President Biden:

As members of the Great Lakes Task Force, we write to underscore the importance of the Great Lakes to the United States and Canada, as well as the shared commitment that both our nations must uphold to support the Great Lakes. We encourage you to highlight the importance of this binational resource, the investments needed to restore and protect the Great Lakes during your official visit to Canada, as well as support for our binational institutions that promote the environmental and economic health of our region.

The Great Lakes contain one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water, providing drinking water for more than 30 million Americans and Canadians, supporting a \$6 trillion regional economy, and providing habitat for a host of fish and wildlife. Through partnerships between the United States and Canada, sustained investments are critical to clean up toxic Areas of Concern, address the threat of invasive species, restore habitats, reduce harmful algal blooms, and mitigate other threats to the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries obligates both countries to provide funding for the Great Lakes. The United States has consistently provided substantial investments into the Great Lakes' health and water quality, administered principally through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI has received more than \$400 million, on average, over the last five years to carry out this important work.

We appreciate your support of the Great Lakes and encourage you to emphasize the importance of our binational institutions and investments for the Great Lakes from the Canadian government. This will be essential to supporting the health of this treasured natural resource, which is critical to both our nations.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



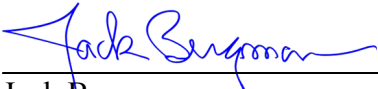
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress




Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



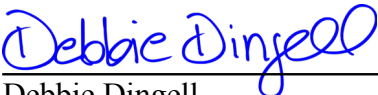
David P. Joyce
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Jack Bergman
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Mike Gallagher
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Debbie Dingell
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Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

CC: The Honorable David Cohen, U.S. Ambassador to Canada