



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David P. Joyce
2065 Rayburn House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Stabenow and Congressman Joyce:

GRETCHEN WHITMER
CHAIR
Governor of Michigan

MIKE DEWINE
VICE CHAIR
Governor of Ohio

TONY EVERS
Governor of Wisconsin

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor of New York

ERIC HOLCOMB
Governor of Indiana

JB PRITZKER
Governor of Illinois

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor of Pennsylvania

TIM WALZ
Governor of Minnesota

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, thank you for your work with us to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Our efforts have resulted in notable progress to protect and restore 20% of the world's surface freshwater. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), in particular, has served as an important tool in our collective efforts to protect this incredible natural resource. We applaud your efforts to reauthorize the GLRI beyond its current FY 26 authorization and to increase the authorization.

Working together, the Great Lakes Governors have provided an important leadership role on Great Lakes restoration and protection. In 2003, the Great Lakes Governors came together to identify nine priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection, which served as the organizing principle of the [Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy](#) for restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. The Strategy in turn served as the impetus for the GLRI which each of our States have used to advance these priorities. We have made significant progress through the GLRI but it is only with sustained, consistent funding that we can build on past achievements and ensure the long-term success of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.

We commend and support your efforts to extend the authorization of the GLRI and increase its authorization. We look forward to continuing our work together to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor of Michigan

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

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