Joint Support Letter for Stable Federal Investment in the Great Lakes

10/28/2026

The Honorable Tony Wied
U.S. House of Representatives
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
U.S. House of Representatives
451 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Continued federal support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Dear Congressman Wied and Tiffany:

We are chambers of commerce, businesses, tourism and outdoor-recreation organizations, labor and trade groups, conservation organizations, and other civic and community organizations from across Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District. Our members, employees, customers, and communities depend on clean water, healthy fisheries, reliable water infrastructure, and the economy built around Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and the outdoors. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is central to this work, alongside other federal investments that support the health of Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and the Great Lakes.

GLRI remains established in federal law, but its authorization of appropriations ran through fiscal year 2026, which ended September 30. The House and Senate have each passed GLRI reauthorization measures, but because the measures differ, Congress must still agree on identical language before reauthorization can become law. We appreciate your vote in favor of H.R. 6422, the American Water Stewardship Act, which passed the House with broad bipartisan support in March. The bill would extend GLRI authorization for five additional years, through fiscal year 2031. We hope you will continue supporting GLRI and dependable annual funding as Congress considers the program's future.

Visitors come to northeast Wisconsin for Green Bay, Lake Michigan, Door County, fishing, boating, hiking, and time with family. Their spending supports charter operators, marinas, resorts, hotels, campgrounds, restaurants, and the workers those businesses employ.

Chambers and economic-development organizations help those businesses grow, while the Port of Green Bay connects the region to Great Lakes shipping and larger markets.

Fishing and boating in northeast Wisconsin depend on sustained conservation, fisheries research, monitoring, and invasive-species control. Wisconsin DNR reports that the Green Bay sport fishery has an estimated annual regional economic impact of $264 million and supports 2,711 full-time-equivalent jobs. Commercial fishers also supply whitefish and yellow perch to local restaurants, markets, and families, and they contribute vessels, equipment, and samples to the fisheries research that supports management. Continued federal support for that work helps protect the fishery and the businesses and workers that depend on it.

In the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern, contaminated-sediment cleanup was completed in 2020 after addressing more than six million cubic yards across 39 miles of the Lower Fox River. Habitat restoration, monitoring, and work to remove the remaining beneficial-use impairments continue. Major funding for those continuing projects comes from GLRI and the Fox River Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

At Cat Island, a $1.5 million GLRI grant supported restoration of the island chain. Clean sediment dredged from Green Bay’s navigation channels is being used to rebuild and fortify the 272-acre chain, helping the Port of Green Bay while restoring fish and wildlife habitat.

In Marinette, GLRI-supported restoration helped the Lower Menominee River become Wisconsin’s first Great Lakes Area of Concern to be delisted. It was removed from the list in 2020 after work to clean up contaminated sediment, restore habitat, and improve fish passage. Reaching delisting required sustained federal, state, local, and private work.

Residents across the Eighth District visit Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and Door County, while inland communities rely on their own lakes, public access, and reliable drinking water and wastewater systems. Building and maintaining that infrastructure supports contractors, engineers, equipment operators, and skilled tradespeople throughout northeast Wisconsin.

We hope you will continue supporting GLRI and dependable annual funding for the program, along with the broader federal investments that protect Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and the Great Lakes. We would welcome the chance to share additional examples from the businesses and communities represented here. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Wisconsin Muzzle Loading Association, Inc.
- Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce
- Kewaunee Area Chamber of Commerce
- Destination Door County
- Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- American Wild Turkey Hunting Dog Association
- TEDCOR
- Wisconsin Division Izaak Walton League of America
- Wisconsin Trappers Association
- Twin City Rod & Gun Club
- Iola Conservation Club
- Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club
- Green Fire Ecology
- Timberland Invasives Partnership
- Fox Valley MuzzleloadersInc
- Shawano Pathways Organization
- Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
- Door County Land Trust
- Baileys Harbor Fish Company LLC
- Brei’s Aqua Farm
- Haasch Guide Service Inc
- Kayak Guide Justin - Sea Kayak Door County
- Green Bay Botanical Garden
- National Railroad Museum
- The Clearing Folk School
- Newport Resort
- Eagle Harbor Inn
- Gathering Ground
- Village Cafe
- Bani Real Estate LLC
- Woodland Trail Winery
- Dreier Pharmacy and Gift Shoppe
- BVI Outdoor Adventures LLC
- Oak & Orchard House LLC
- Nordcliff Cottage LLC
- RP Designs
- Bani Real Estate IV LLC

- Earth Art Studio
- Balistreri Fine Art
- Donna Brown White Barn Gallery
- SRO Events, Inc.
- Full Bloom Events, LLC
- Petals & Pops, LLC
- DK Premier Party Rentals, LLC
- Full Throttle R/C & Gaming, LLC
- Brothers Three Pizza-Oconto
- Wild Ones - Wolf River Chapter
- Hidden Bear Trail ATV Club
- Lakeshore Adventures of Door County Inc
- Everbreeze Resort
- Green Bay Ghost Tours
- Fair Isle Books & Gifts
- Wence Martinez Studio
- Main Street Market
- Martin Jewellers
- Ecology Sports
- Apple Creek Snow Ryders
- Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club
- Braise North
- Bouressa Family Farm
- Timberland Invasives Partnership
- Lumberjack RC&D Council Inc.