



# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

## ***GLRI ACT of 2019 (S. 2295 & H.R. 4031)***

*U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow*

### A Major Success Story

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is the most significant investment ever made to restore and protect our Great Lakes and is a major success story. Senator Stabenow, who co-chairs the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force, first authored this flagship public-private program in 2010. Now she has brought together a broad, bipartisan coalition to renew and expand funding for the Initiative, which expires in 2020.

### Bipartisan Support

Support for the Initiative is wide-ranging and includes both Democrats and Republicans, House and the Senate members and leaders from multiple states. The ***GLRI Act of 2019*** is cosponsored by 12 U.S. Senators and 41 U.S. Representatives, including 12 members from Michigan.

*The bill reauthorizes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for another five years and increases its funding level from \$300 million to \$475 million by fiscal year 2026.*

### Proven Results

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has provided more than \$2.5 billion to protect the Great Lakes and its waterways against its greatest threats, and address problems that directly impact public health and safety. The Initiative has focused federal and nonfederal efforts to stop the spread of Asian carp and other invasive species, restore coastline, clean up environmentally damaged Areas of Concern, and prevent future contamination.

Since 2010, the Initiative has:

- Provided \$2.5 billion to fund over 4,700 projects throughout the Great Lakes, including \$762 million for 880 projects in Michigan
- Tripled the successful cleanup and delisting of areas with extreme degradation including White Lake in West Michigan and Deer Lake in the Upper Peninsula
- Increased remediation of environmental and public health impairments by nearly seven-fold
- Doubled farmland acres under nutrient conservation
- Prevented nearly 800,000 pounds of phosphorus from making its way into the Great Lakes via runoff, reducing the risk of harmful algal blooms
- Facilitated the removal of approximately 8 million pounds of Asian carp from the Illinois River, defending the Great Lakes against an invasion of bighead and silver carp
- Restored habitat connectivity to over 5,250 miles of river

## New & Emerging Threats

The Great Lakes and its watersheds continue to be stressed by contamination and threats to water quality, and are under increasing pressure from new invasive species, climate change, extremes in water levels, intense storms, erosion, and habitat destruction. The **GLRI Act of 2019** ensures that vital efforts to protect our water can continue and that we can address new and emerging threats to our lakes and waterways.

## Call to Action

The Great Lakes are vital to Michigan's economy and our way of life. Please do your part to let others know the importance of this Initiative and to speak out in support of the **GLRI Act of 2019**.