

# Fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$500 Million and Reauthorize the Program

## The Alliance for the Great Lakes requests for Congress and the Trump Administration:

- The Trump Administration should propose and Congress should appropriate at least \$500 million in the FY2027 budget for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).
- Congress should reauthorize the GLRI program for the next five years (FY 2027-2031).
- Congress should ensure sufficient funding to support scientific research capacity, retain staff, and maintain long-term program integrity that allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to anticipate and take action to protect and restore the Great Lakes.
- The U.S. EPA should continue to clean up and delist Areas of Concern (AOCs).
- The U.S. EPA should continue to implement its Action Plan IV to increase GLRI grant funding for communities most in need of restoration projects.

**Background:** Congress established and funded the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in 2010 to allow the U.S. EPA, working in collaboration with other federal agencies, states, and tribes, to provide grant funds to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

The funding addresses on-the-ground restoration projects, including habitat restoration, reducing non-point source pollution, cleaning up legacy pollution and toxic sediments, and preventing the establishment or spread of invasive species.

To date, GLRI has funded more than 8,100 individual projects totaling more than \$4 billion and has greatly improved the quality of life in the region and produced environmental and economic benefits. Major accomplishments include: providing assistance on more than 2.15 million farmland acres for nutrient management actions; clearing 8,170 river miles of dams and barriers; delisting 8 Areas of Concern; and enhancing and restoring nearly 530,000 acres of habitat. It is estimated that for every dollar spent, an additional three dollars of value is added to the regional economy.

GLRI work remains ongoing as EPA is implementing Action Plan IV, which guides the program investments from 2025 through 2029.

## Every GLRI project dollar spent 2010-2016:

- Will produce \$3.35 of additional economic activity through 2036
- Will generate \$1.62 in additional economic activity in tourism-related industries through 2036
- Produced quality of life improvements worth \$1.08 to residents in coastal communities

