



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

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 and has championed support for the initiative ever since.

Senator Stabenow has secured the future of this program by enacting into law the *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act* to renew the program for another five years and expand its funding level from \$300 million each year to \$475 million by fiscal year 2026. On top of this significant funding increase, she has secured an additional \$1 billion investment in the program over the next five years with the passage of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* in the U.S. Senate. This will be the single-largest investment ever made in our Great Lakes!

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 *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act* was cosponsored by 12 U.S. Senators and 42 U.S. Representatives, including 11 members from Michigan.

Proven Results

The *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative* has provided more than \$3.8 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 \$3.8 billion to fund over 6,500 projects throughout the Great Lakes, including over 2,000 projects in Michigan
- Delisted or completed management actions at half of the U.S.'s identified Areas of Concern with extreme degradation including White Lake in West Michigan and Deer Lake in the Upper Peninsula
- Placed more than 700,000 cropland acres under conservation in agricultural priority watersheds
- Prevented nearly two million 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 6,725 miles of streams and rivers
- Engaged over 165,000 youth through hands-on education and stewardship projects
- Leveraged every GLRI dollar spent to produce \$3.35 in additional economic activity

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 *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative* ensures that vital efforts to protect our water can continue and that we can address new and emerging threats to our lakes and waterways.