



Fall 2022 Fly-In: Policy Priorities

1. Great Lakes Restoration

Great Lakes restoration investments are producing economic and ecological results. But serious threats remain. Congress must continue supporting our communities by fully funding and reauthorizing key restoration programs. Great Lakes restoration investments can also address impacts from our changing climate through nature-based infrastructure and habitat improvement projects, helping reduce flooding and other serious threats. We urge Congress:

- ✓ Fully Fund Great Lakes Restoration and Climate Resilience Programs
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI): no less than \$400 million.
 - Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration (GLFWRA): no less than \$8 million
 - Army Corps Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER): no less than \$15 million
 - Defense against invasive carp through the U.S. FWS and USGS invasive carp (formerly called Asian carp) programs: no less than \$25 million and \$11 million, respectively.
 - Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study: no less than \$3 million
- ✓ Support Great Lakes legislation
 - Pass [S. 3069/H.R. 5973](#), the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Reauthorization Act
 - Pass a Water Resources Development Act that includes:
 - A cost-share adjustment for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project from an 80 percent to 90 percent federal cost-share.
 - Strengthens the resilience mission of the Army Corps, prioritizing the protection and restoration of shorelines, riverbanks, and streambanks to increase resilience and to protect communities.
 - Authorizes the development of a suite of models for Great Lakes' lake level forecasting to enhance community resilience planning.

2. Water Infrastructure

The Great Lakes region is grappling with crumbling and unsafe [drinking water](#) and [wastewater](#) infrastructure. Our communities need a staggering \$188 billion over 20 years to improve, upgrade, and repair drinking water and wastewater systems. Work that is increasingly unaffordable with costs too often being passed on to the communities that can least afford it. Investing in our region's water infrastructure would not only protect public health but allow for important infrastructure upgrades improving the resiliency of

our communities, reducing maintenance and operational costs, and creating good paying local jobs.

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition recognizes the importance and historic infrastructure investments of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, but there is much more work to do. Congress must back up their passage of the BIL with clear support for full funding and equitable implementation of key programs. Congress must:

- ✓ Fully fund key water infrastructure programs:
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund (EPA): no less than \$4.4 billion
 - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (EPA): no less than \$3.9 billion
 - Sec. 221 Sewer Overflow and Storm Water Reuse Municipal Grants (EPA): no less than \$280 million
 - Rural and Low-Income Water Assistance Pilot Program (EPA): \$225 million
 - Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (HHS): \$500 million
- ✓ Support equitable implementation of water infrastructure investments:
 - Maximize funding provided as grants or forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities and those most impacted by pollution.
 - Increase investment in staffing at EPA program offices to ensure equitable implementation of the BIL and IRA, enhance community engagement, and increase technical assistance capacity to states and disadvantaged communities.