



June 16, 2009

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, we ask you to vote for S. 933, the Contaminated Sediment Remediation Reauthorization Act (i.e., the Great Lakes Legacy Act), during this week's Committee on Environment and Public Works business meeting.

Though progress in cleaning up toxic sediments in the Great Lakes is being made, much work remains to be done. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) estimated that total clean up costs for Areas of Concern (AOCs) could range from \$1.5 billion to \$4.5 billion. As you know, AOCs are the sites where the Great Lakes Legacy Act targets its sediment clean up funds.

S. 933 attempts to accelerate the cleanup of these toxic sites. It provides \$150 million a year through fiscal year 2014 to the Great Lakes Legacy Act, a program successfully designed specifically to address sediment contamination in the Great Lakes. By increasing the funding available under the Legacy Act program, this legislation will help our nation meet the goal of cleaning up all known contaminated sediment sites in AOCs by 2020.

As you know, the Great Lakes comprise 95 percent of the nation's fresh surface water that powers industry, provides habitat, and creates a way of life. Our nation's economic health is connected to the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Great Lakes cannot heal without the help of the Great Lakes Legacy Act and the resources it provides.

Again, we ask you to vote for S. 933. If you have any questions or ideas about how we can help, please do not hesitate to contact Chad Lord, our Coalition's policy director, at (202) 454-3385 or clord@npca.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Skelding". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeff Skelding
Campaign Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Lord". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chad Lord
Policy Director