

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2010

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania
Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Prime Minister Stephen
Harper
Office of the Prime
Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa K1A 0A2

Commissioners of the
International Joint
Commission
2000 L St. NW Suite 615
Washington, DC 20036

Dear President Obama, Prime Minister Harper and the Commissioners of the International Joint Commission:

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a devastating disaster that further illuminates the need to ensure we have the proper protections in place to prohibit a similar event from ever happening again. Further, we must remember not only to protect our oceans, but the Great Lakes as well, and ensure that these waters remain the pristine ecosystem and viable tourism and economic boon they are today.

In 2001, Congress adopted a ban on new oil and gas drilling of any kind in the U.S. waters of the Great Lakes, a ban that was extended twice through 2007. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) made this ban permanent. Importantly, however, the ban does not extend to Canadian waters and, in fact, Canada does conduct oil and gas extraction in Lake Erie.

The United States and Canada have a long history of working together to protect the Great Lakes. The 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty recognized this important relationship and acknowledged that each country is affected by the other's actions in the Great Lakes and other bodies of waters along our shared border.

In light of Canada's long history of environmental stewardship, we urge the U.S. and Canadian governments in coordination with the International Joint Commission, to undertake a review of oil and gas drilling by Canada in the Great Lakes, particularly in regard to safety, environmental impact and oil spill response plans. Ultimately we believe it is most appropriate for Canada to pursue a ban on drilling in the Great Lakes similar to the U.S. law.

From the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes, we have a moral obligation to leave our planet inhabitable for future generations, and it begins with taking the necessary precautions against potentially catastrophic and irrevocable harm to our natural resources and precious ecosystems.

Please contact Lindsey Matese in Congressman Quigley's office, (Ph. 202-225-4061) or Nick Choate in Congressman Stupak's office (202-225-4735), to follow up on this very important issue.

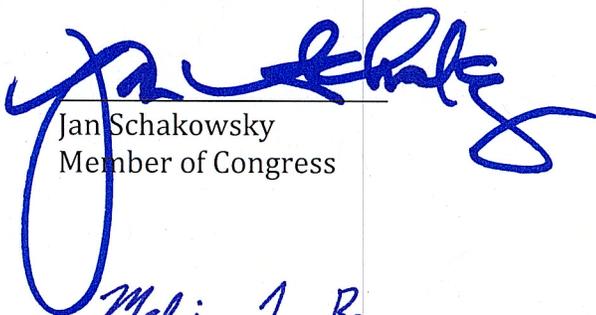
Sincerely,



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



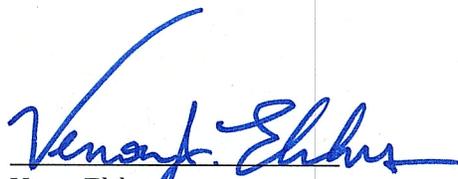
Candice Miller
Member of Congress



Melissa Bean
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



Vern Ehlers
Member of Congress



Mark Schauer
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Bill Owens
Member of Congress



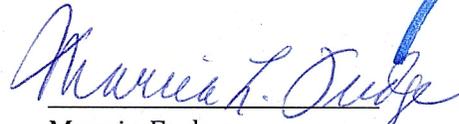
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Dave Obey
Member of Congress



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress



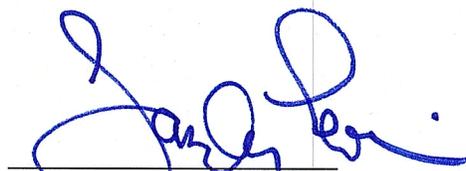
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Kathy Dalkemper
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter *John Dingell*

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

John Dingell
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress