

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We, the undersigned cosponsors of H.R. 1580, the Great Lakes Fishery Research Authorization (GLFRA) Act, write to request a Natural Resources Committee hearing for this bill.

The GLFRA Act is a bipartisan bill that would authorize the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct critical monitoring, scientific assessments, and research in support of fisheries between the United States and Canada that lie within the Great Lakes Basin. The current authorization is vague and confusing and results in piecemeal funding for the USGS Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This bill would provide the Science Center with a dedicated funding stream and clear authorization for its vital work on the health and vitality of the multi-billion-dollar Great Lakes fishery.

The Great Lakes hold 18% of the world's fresh water supply and cover over 9,000 miles of shoreline. Over 35 million people depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, recreation, fish and wildlife related activities, industrial water supply and commercial navigation. The Lakes support more than 1.5 million jobs and generate \$62B in wages; more than 50,000 jobs alone are sustained directly by the Great Lakes fishery.

The GLFRA Act will allow the USGS Fishery Science Center to meet the needs of fisheries managers, monitor and assess the health of the GL fishery, conduct science and research including fish habitat investigations, handle invasive species response, study deepwater ecosystem and biological and food web components vital to maintaining the productivity of the Great Lakes, and use existing, new and experimental biological assessment tools, equipment, vessels, and other scientific instrumentation and laboratory capabilities to support fishery management decisions.

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We believe that by allowing the USGS to use the best available tools, equipment, vessels, and other scientific instrumentation to support fishery management through increased funding, the GLFRA will ensure that a balanced and productive Great Lakes ecosystem is maintained.

We hope that the Natural Resources Committee will conduct a hearing on this important legislation in short order. All of the undersigned cosponsors of H.R. 1580 would be happy to work with you or the committee to facilitate a hearing with experts from the USGS and the Great Lakes Fishery Science Center and we look forward to your reply.

Thank you,



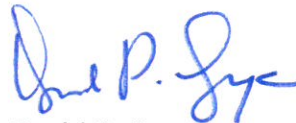
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



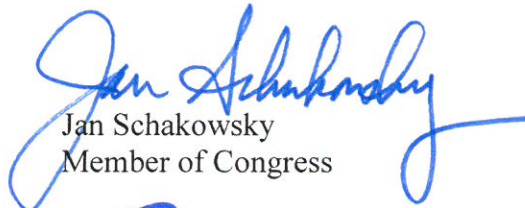
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



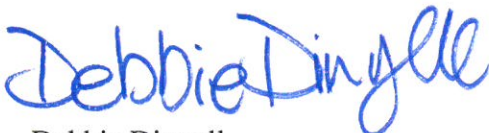
Jan Schakowsky
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