



GREAT LAKES METRO CHAMBERS COALITION

April 20, 2018

Dear Great Lakes Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition (GLMCC), a collective of chambers of commerce jointly advocating on federal policy impacting the Great Lakes region, we are writing to thank you for including critical funding for transportation infrastructure, water quality enhancement, and energy research and development in the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act. These funding increases will positively impact the Great Lakes region's economic growth and quality of life. Furthermore, as Congress begins developing the FY 2019 appropriations bills, we respectfully request your continued support.

Specifically, the GLMCC would like to thank you for supporting the following funding levels and language included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018:

- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI):** \$300 million in appropriations for the GLRI. One of the world's greatest natural resources is in our region – the Great Lakes. The GLRI has assisted with more than 2,900 projects to restore damaged areas of the Great Lakes and is well on its way to completion. We need the GLRI fully funded to continue this important restoration work underway.
- **Capital Investment Grants (CIG):** \$2.645 billion for the CIG Grant program and language that directs the administration to continue administering the program as Congress intended. A safe and reliable multi-modal transportation system – including public transit, roads and highways, inland waterways and river navigation – is critical to the economy and quality of life in the Great Lakes region. The CIG program is critical to cities in our region as they look to connect their innovation and jobs clusters.
- **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants:** \$1.5 billion appropriated for the TIGER program. Our nation is in need of a drastic infusion of infrastructure investment, and before we move forward with new programs, we must ensure existing funding streams are secure, including the TIGER program.



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- **Federal Assets across the Great Lakes:** The Great Lakes region is a leader in research and innovation and a longstanding pillar in our national defense apparatus. To this end, we support the increases in defense spending and research & development included in H.R. 1625.
- **National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) & Fossil Energy (FE) R & D:** \$728.8 million for FE Research & Development. This research is critical for our region's and nation's energy future and much of it occurs in the Great Lakes region. We are also supportive of the Ethane Storage Hub language included in H.R. 1625.

Congress has shown through recent spending bills that they care about policies that advance our Great Lakes region. As you and your congressional colleagues begin to work on FY 2019 Appropriations, we respectfully ask for continued support toward these programs. Specifically, we request FY19 funding for these programs continue at FY18 levels. By doing so, you will directly support the economic vitality of our Great Lakes region.

Sincerely,

Marty McGann

Brandon Mendoza

Co-Directors, Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition