STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

October 29, 2009

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

I urge you to take swift action to approve the $475 Million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative included in a House-Senate Conference Committee Report for the Department of Interior and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As you know, the Great Lakes are vital to Michigan's economy and are at the center of this region's economic transformation. Passage of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a pivotal step towards addressing key issues including toxic chemicals, invasive species, habitat protection, non-point sources of pollution, and removing contaminated sediment in Areas of Concern.

This Initiative makes an important down payment on President Obama's promise of significant long term funding for Great Lakes restoration efforts. It also provides significant new resources to act on recommendations in the MI-Great Lakes Plan developed last year with the input of more than 2,000 Michigan citizens including elected officials, state and local governments, members of local watershed organizations, academic institutions as well as agricultural, conservation, business and environmental groups.

I appreciate the great efforts that members of the Michigan delegation have made to ensure that the conference committee included the full funding recommended by the President. The long collaborative effort to secure significant new federal support for restoration efforts is now within your control. I hope you will be able to convince your colleagues to seize this opportunity to protect and restore our magnificent Great Lakes.

Sincerely yours,

John D. Cherry, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor