



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Joe Biden  
Biden for President  
P.O. Box 438  
Wilmington, DE 19899

Dear Senator Biden:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

The Great Lakes constitute the largest surface freshwater system in the world. More than 35 million Americans receive the benefits of drinking water, food, a place to work and live, recreational opportunities and transportation from the Great Lakes. Our national economy depends on the Great Lakes. Nearly 30% of our nation's gross domestic product is produced by the Great Lakes States, which includes approximately 60% of all U.S. manufacturing.

In order to protect and restore the Lakes, and our economy that depends on them, we have initiated and built upon measures both regionally and within our States. In 2003, we the Governors identified nine priorities to guide our collective work. And, in 2005, we joined with representatives of the current Administration, Congress and Tribes to unveil a comprehensive strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes. The citizens of our region and our nation are now looking to our elected leaders to follow through on the promise reflected in the strategy with concrete steps.

Aggressive action has been taken by each of the Great Lakes States to do what we can to advance Great Lakes restoration and protection. For example, in Wisconsin over the past two years, we together with our other partners have been able to direct funds to protect and restore over 10,000 acres of wetlands in the Lake Michigan basin. In Green Bay, we have joined with local governments and the dental trade association to provide cost-share incentives to accelerate installation of mercury separators and reduce the potential for entry into the Lake Michigan food chains. Efforts by the other Great Lakes States have similarly brought us closer to our shared restoration and protection goals.

And earlier this year, Minnesota became the first State to ratify the *Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact*. Illinois has also ratified the Compact, and action is anticipated in the other Great Lakes States in coming weeks and months. The Compact was negotiated and endorsed by the Great Lakes Governors and will ban diversions from the Great Lakes with limited

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exceptions. After the Compact is ratified by all of the Great Lakes States, Congress will be asked to provide its consent thereby turning this unprecedented set of protections into State and federal law. We ask for your commitment to support this effort.

However, progress to protect and restore the Great Lakes continues too slowly because the States, without proper support from the federal government, can only achieve so much. Because we are not acting swiftly enough, the Lakes, our citizens and our economy still suffer from pollution and biological invasions, as well as new and emerging threats. This situation compromises our environment and restrains our economy, both regionally and nationally. Swift and substantial progress will only be made if the U.S. Congress and the Administration join us by providing the necessary resources and actions to protect and restore the Great Lakes. To that end, both individually and collectively the Governors have repeatedly asked Congress to support programs and legislation that will support our efforts.

We are at a crossroads. Actions in coming months and years will determine whether our shared efforts will accelerate or falter. The next Administration will have a key role in determining the fate of the Great Lakes. The Governors have been working hard to protect the Great Lakes through measures like the Compact but it is only through supportive federal policy that we will be able to realize our shared vision of a protected and restored Great Lakes. Therefore, I ask that you outline your plan and priority actions for Great Lakes restoration and protection that you will initiate in 2009 and beyond. Specifically, I ask whether you endorse the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Restoration and Protection Strategy that has been developed and, if so, to articulate your implementation plan. Of course, if you identify another path forward, please share a detailed strategy to realize our shared goals.

Our actions reflect our seriousness in restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. I hope that you will join me in demonstrating this commitment. Should you or your staff have questions, please contact David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors at (312) 407-0177.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Hillary Clinton for President  
4420 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Senator Clinton:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

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November 8, 2007

The Honorable Chris Dodd  
Chris Dodd for President  
P.O.Box 51882  
Washington, DC 20091

Dear Senator Dodd:

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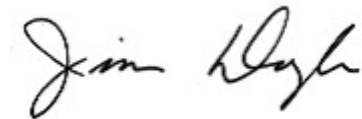
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Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable John Edwards  
John Edwards for President  
410 Market Street, Suite 400  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Senator Edwards:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

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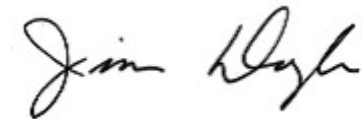
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November 8, 2007

The Honorable Mike Gravel  
Mike Gravel for President  
P.O. Box 948  
Arlington, VA 22216

Dear Senator Gravel:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

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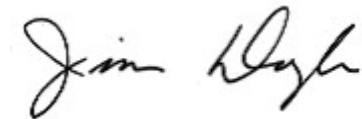
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November 8, 2007

The Honorable Rudy Giuliani  
Rudy Giuliani Presidential Committee, Inc.  
295 Greenwich St, #371  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Giuliani:

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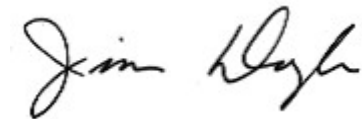
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The Honorable Mike Huckabee  
Huckabee for President, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2008  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Dear Governor Huckabee:

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CHAIR  
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However, progress to protect and restore the Great Lakes continues too slowly because the States, without proper support from the federal government, can only achieve so much. Because we are not acting swiftly enough, the Lakes, our citizens and our economy still suffer from pollution and biological invasions, as well as new and emerging threats. This situation compromises our environment and restrains our economy, both regionally and nationally. Swift and substantial progress will only be made if the U.S. Congress and the Administration join us by providing the necessary resources and actions to protect and restore the Great Lakes. To that end, both individually and collectively the Governors have repeatedly asked Congress to support programs and legislation that will support our efforts.

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Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Hunter for President, Inc.  
9340 Fuerte Drive, Suite 302  
La Mesa, CA 91941

Dear Representative Hunter:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

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Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

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November 8, 2007

The Honorable Alan Keyes  
Alan Keyes for President  
P.O. Box 50597  
Provo, Utah 84605-0597

Dear Ambassador Keyes:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

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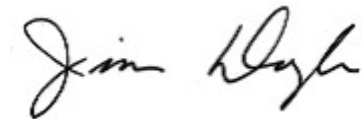
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Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Dennis Kucinich  
Kucinich for President  
11808 Lorain Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44111

Dear Representative Kucinich:

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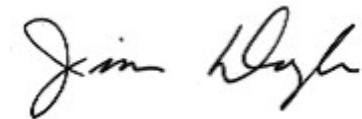
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Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable John McCain  
John McCain 2008  
P.O. Box 16118  
Arlington, VA 22215

Dear Senator McCain:

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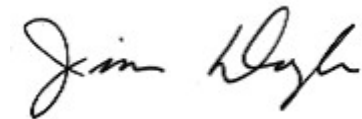
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Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama  
Obama for America  
P.O. Box 8102  
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Senator Obama:

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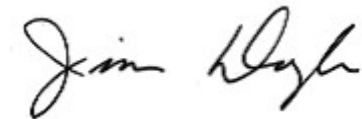
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Ron Paul 2008  
3461 Washington Blvd., Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Representative Paul:

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The Great Lakes constitute the largest surface freshwater system in the world. More than 35 million Americans receive the benefits of drinking water, food, a place to work and live, recreational opportunities and transportation from the Great Lakes. Our national economy depends on the Great Lakes. Nearly 30% of our nation's gross domestic product is produced by the Great Lakes States, which includes approximately 60% of all U.S. manufacturing.

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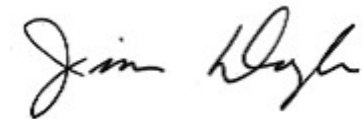
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Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Bill Richardson  
Richardson for President, Inc.  
111 Lomas Blvd. NW, Suite 200  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Governor Richardson:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

The Great Lakes constitute the largest surface freshwater system in the world. More than 35 million Americans receive the benefits of drinking water, food, a place to work and live, recreational opportunities and transportation from the Great Lakes. Our national economy depends on the Great Lakes. Nearly 30% of our nation's gross domestic product is produced by the Great Lakes States, which includes approximately 60% of all U.S. manufacturing.

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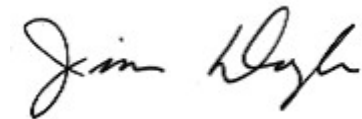
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Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Mitt Romney  
Romney for President, Inc.  
P.O. Box 55239  
Boston, MA 02201-5239

Dear Governor Romney:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

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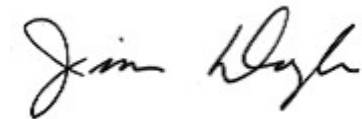
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Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Governors March 2, 2007 letter to Congress—near term Great Lakes restoration and protection action priorities (example)



November 8, 2007

The Honorable Tom Tancredo  
Tancredo08 for President  
501 Church Street, Suite 212  
Vienna, VA 22180

Dear Representative Tancredo:

On behalf of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, we have been working aggressively over the past several years to protect, preserve and restore our nation's water belt—the Great Lakes States. It is critical for the next Presidential candidate to share our vision of the Great Lakes as a national treasure.

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November 8, 2007

The Honorable Fred Thompson  
Friends of Fred Thompson, Inc.  
P.O. Box 128349  
Nashville, TN 37212-8349

Dear Senator Thompson:

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