

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

As members of the Great Lakes Congressional delegation, we write to request an update on the status of a revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. As the United States and Canada are responsible for the protection of the Great Lakes, it is of utmost importance to maintain and update the treaties and agreements establishing a bi-national approach to maintaining the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement upholds basin-wide water quality objectives and commitment to the creation, implementation, and monitoring of programs to improve environmental conditions of the lakes. The Agreement originally written in 1972 and updated periodically addresses the ever-changing environmental needs of the Great Lakes.

The most recent update occurred 25 years ago. On June 13, 2009, both governments announced that the U.S. and Canada would begin negotiations to amend the Agreement, recognition that the Agreement was out of date. In March 2012, the Great Lakes Task Force held a congressional briefing to receive an update on the status of the amended Agreement. With the three year anniversary of the announcement that the two countries would re-open the Agreement for negotiation, we write to inquire the progress of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Specifically, when will the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement be issued and released?

Thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to your response.

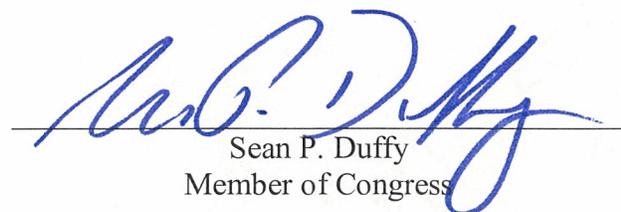
Sincerely,



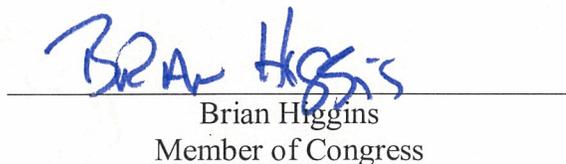
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



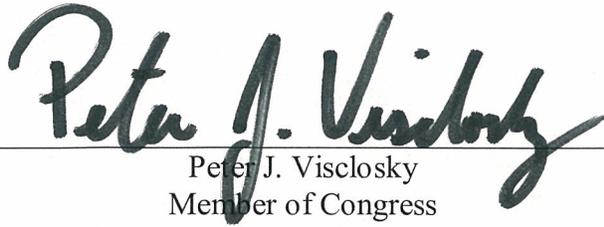
Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress



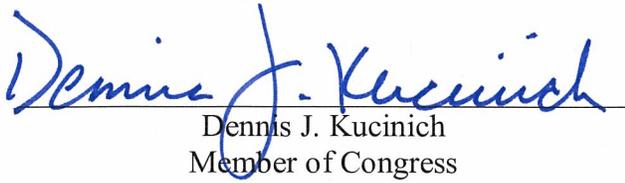
Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

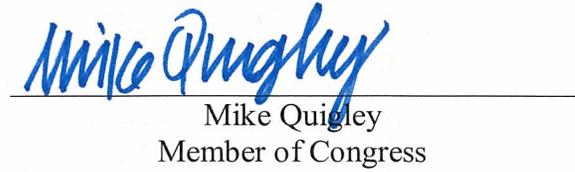


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

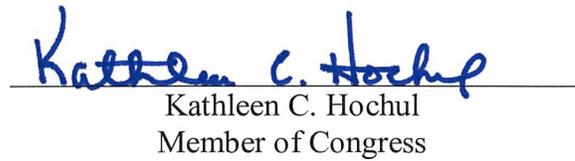

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress


Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress


Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress