



September 17, 2004

The Honorable Michael Leavitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

JIM DOYLE
CO-CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

BOB TAFT
CO-CHAIR
Governor of Ohio

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
Governor of Illinois

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

JOSEPH E. KERNAN
Governor of Indiana

GEORGE E. PATAKI
Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

As Co-Chairs of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, we would like to thank you again for your recent initiatives to protect the Great Lakes. We also applaud your continuing personal commitment to implement the President's Executive Order establishing the Federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force. We are eager to continue working with you on these efforts.

As we work toward our longer-term objectives, there are imminent threats to the Great Lakes that require us to act immediately. To that end, we understand that the Federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force will meet on September 24. There are clearly many funding priorities that could be included in the agenda for this meeting. But, we believe that there is no greater priority at this time than identifying federal funding sources to complete the construction of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal dispersal barrier. It is our understanding that a commitment of \$1.8 million must be made by October 1, 2004 if the new two barrier system, as recommended by the Dispersal Barrier Advisory Panel, is to be completed before the end of this year. This funding is absolutely essential to protect the Great Lakes. Our July 16 letter on this issue is attached for your reference.

In addition to dispersal barrier funding, the Great Lakes Governors continue to support efforts to fund the President's request for Legacy Act implementation. As you know, on May 14 we communicated our support for this important initiative to members of Congress. We welcome opportunities to work with you and the President on this issue.

Thank you again for your commitment to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. Should there be questions, please do not hesitate to contact David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, at (312) 407-0177.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "J" and a trailing flourish.

Jim Doyle

Co-Chair,
Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Wisconsin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Taft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "B" and a trailing flourish.

Bob Taft

Co-Chair,
Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Ohio