UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP - 5 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Peter J. Roskam
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Roskam:

Thank you for your May 19, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the President's FY 2018 budget.

As you know, the Great Lakes represent the largest surface freshwater system on Earth, with more than 30 million people living in the region and depending on the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The EPA and other federal agencies launched the GLRI in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Since the inception of the GLRI to the end of 2016, the EPA and its partners have achieved significant results through a coordinated interagency effort to restore and maintain the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem, in accordance with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Clean Water Act. The EPA continues to encourage state and local efforts to protect and maintain the Great Lakes and looks forward to engaging in meaningful discussions about how shared environmental goals related to this region can be achieved.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Borum.Denis@epa.gov or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Shapiro
Acting Assistant Administrator