

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Mr. Ryan A. Fisher  
Acting Assistant Secretary of the  
U.S. Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Director Mulvaney and Acting Assistant Secretary Fisher:

As members of the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force, we are writing to urge the inclusion of the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study in the President's FY2019 budget request. This study, proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in consultation with the Great Lakes states, would be the first of its kind to coordinate a strategy across the Great Lakes states to most efficiently and effectively manage and protect the Great Lakes coastline.

Recent hurricanes have demonstrated the devastation and destruction that severe weather events and flooding can have on our nation's coastlines and communities. The Great Lakes coastline faces numerous threats, such as lake level fluctuations, erosion, flooding, nutrient runoff, and aging infrastructure. It is important to ensure that the Great Lakes' 5,200-mile coastline is protected, as 4.2 million people live within two miles of a Great Lakes coastline. The coastline is also imperative to a robust economy and tourism industry in the Great Lakes, as it includes 60 commercial harbors moving over 123 million tons of cargo annually, a maritime economy valued at \$17.3 billion and generating 293,000 jobs, a \$14 billion Great Lakes recreation and tourism economy, and a diverse ecosystem of features such as wetlands, bluffs, dunes and beaches and species that are either threatened or endangered.

We were pleased to learn that this study is a top priority for the three Corps Districts (Chicago, Detroit, and Buffalo) surrounding the Great Lakes as well as the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. It also has the support of seven Great Lakes states, the Great Lakes Commission, and several federal agencies with missions in coastal management, including NOAA and U.S. Geological Survey. These partners have recognized the need for regional collaboration to ensure the most efficient use of resources to protect the Great Lakes coastline. We appreciate the Corps' consultation with the Great Lakes states in proposing this study, as we fully intend for this study to be used to implement projects that will result in a more resilient coastline throughout the Great Lakes and a more strategic expenditure of state and federal funds.

In closing, we again reiterate our support for the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study, and ask that this study be included in the President's FY2019 budget request. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



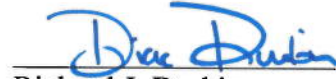
Rob Portman  
United States Senator  
Co-Chair, Great Lakes Task Force



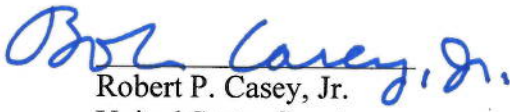
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator  
Co-Chair, Great Lakes Task Force



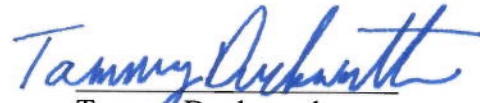
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator  
Vice Chair, Great Lakes Task Force



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator