



# Great Lakes Legislation to Watch

April 28, 2016 | 2 pm CDT/3 pm EDT



GREAT LAKES  
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



# Agenda

Housekeeping

*Lisa Janairo, Program Director, CSG Midwest*

Welcome and Introductions

*Representative Cory Mason (Wisconsin), Chair, Great Lakes Legislative Caucus*

Update on Key Great Lakes Legislation and Funding Issues in Washington, D.C.

*Matthew McKenna, Director, Northeast-Midwest Institute's Great Lakes  
Washington Program*

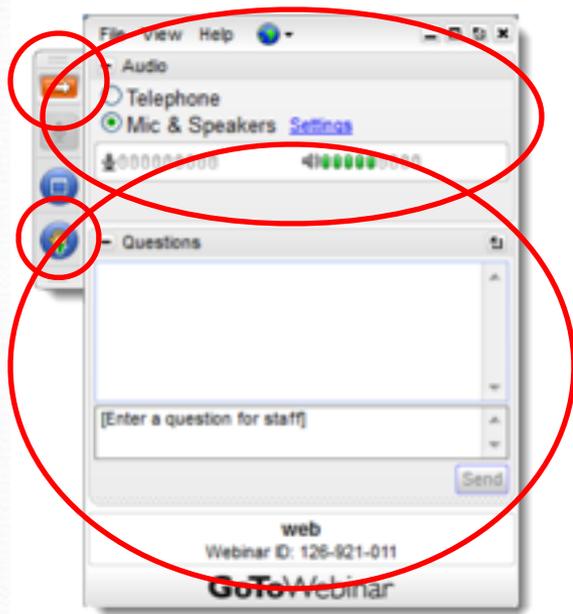
Regional Review: Update on Key Trends and Issues from the Great Lakes States and Provinces

Announcements

Adjourn

# Housekeeping

- **This webinar is being recorded.** The recording will be available later today at [www.greatlakeslegislators.org](http://www.greatlakeslegislators.org).
- To reduce noise on the phone lines, all participants will be in “listen-only” mode during the presentation.
- There will be time for questions after the presentations.
  - Click on the “raise hand” icon in the webinar console.
  - Type questions using the “questions” pane in the webinar console.
- If you wish to speak, you must enter the audio PIN.



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[gllc@csg.org](mailto:gllc@csg.org)

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# About the GLLC

- The GLLC is a binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from the Great Lakes region.
  - Eight U.S. states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin
  - Two Canadian provinces: Ontario and Québec
- The Caucus has three primary goals:
  - Facilitate the regional exchange of ideas and information on key Great Lakes issues;
  - Strengthen the role of state and provincial legislators in the policymaking process; and
  - Promote the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes.

# Featured Speaker

## **Matthew McKenna**

Director

Great Lakes Washington Program

Northeast-Midwest Institute

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# Federal Legislative Update

Matthew McKenna

Director, Great Lakes Washington Program

April 28, 2016

# 2016 Legislative Outlook

- GLRI Bill Update
- Safe Drinking Water Legislation
- WRDA
- Invasive Species / Ballast Water
- Appropriations / Budget
- Other Legislative Proposals of Interest

# GLRI Bill (H.R. 223 and S. 1024)

- The GLRI was authorized for one year in the FY 2016 omnibus bill.
- Both H.R. 223 and S. 1024 authorize the GLRI at \$300 million a year over five years or \$1.5 billion between 2017–2021.
- H.R. 223 passed the House by voice vote on 4/26/16:
  - The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved an amendment to H.R. 223 that among other things, requires EPA to designate a point person to coordinate all activities regarding harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.
- S. 1024 was approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee 1/20/16 and was reported to the Senate floor on 2/24/16.
- The Text of S. 1024 was included in the Senate draft of the WRDA bill.

# Safe Drinking Water

## U.S. House

- **H.R. 4470, the Safe Drinking Water Act Improved Compliance Awareness Act** – Requires timely notice by the EPA and local operators of water systems after elevated lead levels are found. Passed House 2/10/16.
- **H.R. 4653, the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability (AQUA) Act** - Reauthorizes the Drinking Water SRF program at \$3.1 billion for fiscal 2017. Spending would increase to \$5.5 billion in fiscal 2021.
- **H.R. 4797, Get the Lead Out Act** – Provides grants to reduce lead in community drinking water delivery systems and public drinking water supplies.
- **H.R. 4806, The Copper and Lead Evaluation, Assessment and Reporting (CLEAR) Act of 2016** - Codifies recent National Drinking Water Advisory Council recommendations in federal law and directs the EPA to improve reporting, testing and monitoring of lead and copper levels throughout the nation's water infrastructure.

# S. 2821, the True LEADership Act

- Increase both the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF:
  - DWSRF: FY2017 \$3.13 billion, FY2018 \$3.6 billion, FY2019 \$4.14 billion, FY2020 \$4.8 billion, FY2021 \$5.5 billion.
  - CWSRF: FY2017 \$5.18 billion, FY2018 \$5.96 billion, FY2019 \$6.85 billion, FY2020 \$7.88 billion, FY2021 \$9.06 billion.
- Creates a new grant program reducing lead in drinking water:
  - Grants to local communities to replace publicly owned lead service lines.
  - Grants to address lead contaminations through activities like corrosion control.
  - Grants to assist low-income homeowners to replace privately owned service lines.
- Updates the EPA's lead and copper regulations to establish mandatory lead testing of pipes and water, while also improving notification of exceedance of lead action levels.
- Establishes a mandatory reporting requirement for states to report elevated levels of lead in blood.
- Creates a Home Lead Removal Tax Credit that provides a refundable tax credits of up to \$3,000 to cover 50% of the costs of lead hazard abatement activities.
- Provides FEMA the authority to grant federal disaster funding for lead contamination of drinking water.

# Water Resources Development Act

**The Senate Environment & Public Works Committee** released a WRDA draft this week that authorizes \$9 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and other activities, including more than \$4.5 billion for the study and construction of new public works and environmental restoration projects.

Specifically the bill:

- Includes \$170 million to repair aging water infrastructure around the country and \$50 million for health care needs linked to lead poisoning (S. 2579, the Drinking Water Safety and Infrastructure Act).
- Provides an additional \$4.8 billion to help communities address water quality and drinking water problems outside the USACE's purview (such as increases to the DWSRF and CWSRF authorizations).
- Clarifies the targets for increased HMTF funding for dredging and other harbor activities from the 2014 WRDDA law.
- Authorizes the GLRI at \$300 million a year over a five year period.
- Capitalizes the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) with \$70 million.

**The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee** has yet to release a draft of a House version. It is expected that the House will act on a much more modest bill, seeking more technical corrections to the 2014 WRDDA bill.

# Invasive Species / Ballast Water

- Defending Our Great Lakes Act (H.R. 1135 & S. 589)
  - Legislation seeking to prevent the upstream transfer of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes through the Brandon Road Dam and Lock.
  - Introduced in early 2015, has yet to see any Congressional action.
- The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act - VIDA (H.R. 980 & S. 373)
  - Legislation that requires the U.S. Coast Guard to develop national ballast water standards.
  - Sen. Rubio looked to attach VIDA to the Coast Guard reauthorization bill that Congress passed earlier in the year, and has continued to look for legislative vehicles such as the FAA reauthorization bill.

# FY 2017 Budget and Appropriations

- The 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act included top line spending levels for FY 2017;
- The House Budget Committee approved a budget resolution in March, some conservative groups feel that these numbers are still too high;
- Speaker Paul Ryan is looking to move the appropriations bills w/out a budget resolution, but said he needs 218 Republicans to move forward, while the House Appropriations Committee has already started marking up their bills;
- The Senate has already started to try and tackle Appropriations bills on the Senate floor, but could run into difficulties over potential amendments.

# Moving Forward With Appropriations

- Both House and Senate Leadership have expressed the desire to move all 12 bills separately;
- Even if each chamber is able to move each bill individually, the upcoming election has placed even greater time constraints on Congress this year;
- With the summer recess beginning on July 15, and a likely short legislative month in September, the amount of legislative days are quickly shrinking;
- It's likely Congress will deal with the remaining FY17 spending bills during a lame duck session after the election.

# House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

## Points of Interest

- HMTF – House: \$1.263 billion; Senate: \$1.300 billion.
- Aquatic Nuisance Species – Both bills include language to advance authorized activities to prevent the advancement of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.
- Disposal of Dredged Sediment – Both bills prohibit the use of funds for open lake placement of dredged materials in Lake Erie.
- Great Lakes Navigation System - Both bill call on increasing funding for navigation maintenance on the GLNS.
- Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier - Both Bills provide continued funding to operate the barrier.

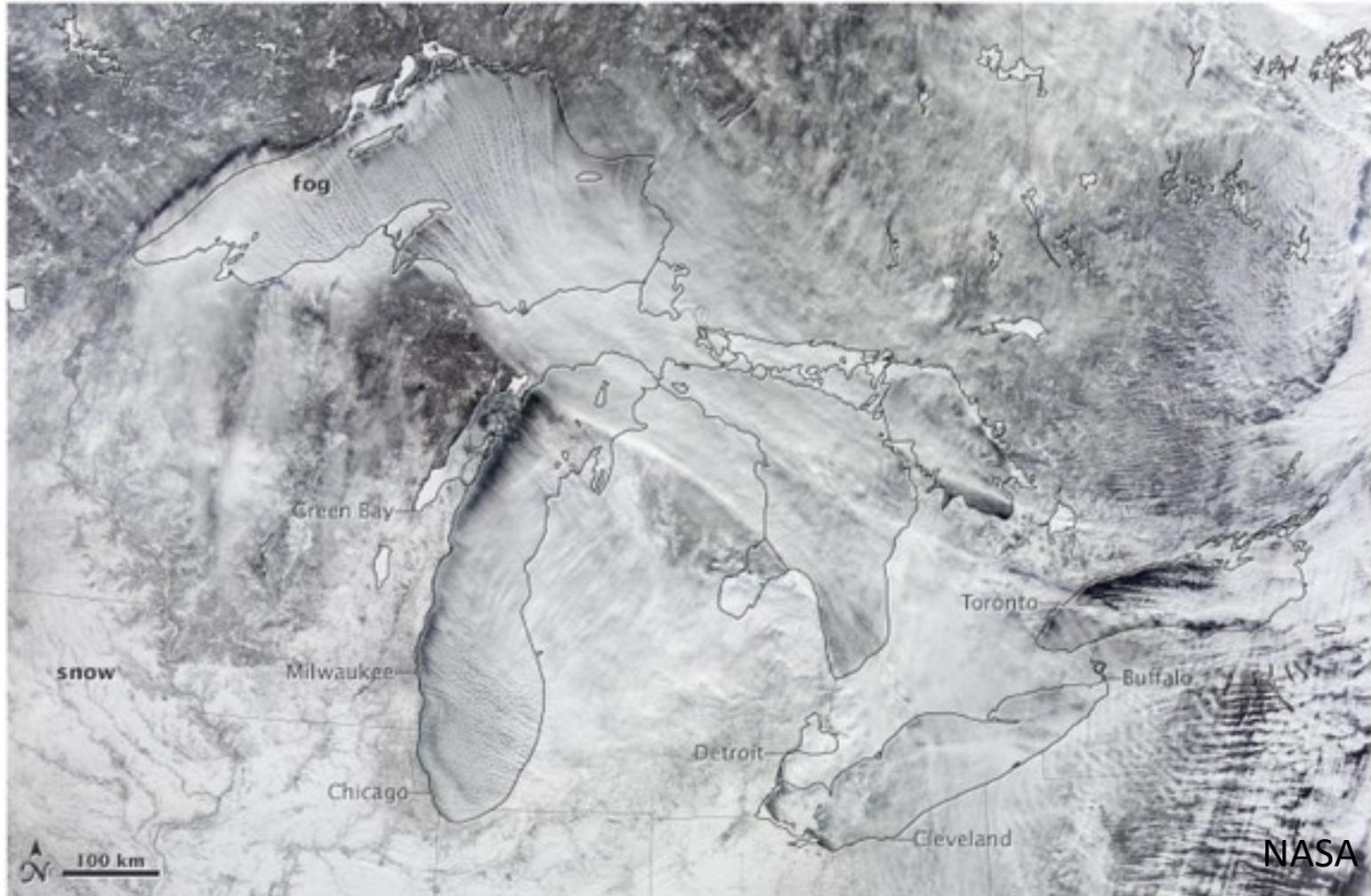
# NEMWI Tracking



# Other Notable Legislation

- **The SAFE PIPES Act (S. 2276), the PIPES Act (H.R. 4937) and the Pipeline Safety Act of 2016 (H.R. 5050)**
  - The bills authorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and seek to improve pipeline safety.
  - S. 2276 passed the Senate on 3/3/16 and includes language that designates the Great Lakes as a “high consequence area” (this designation is also included in H.R. 4937).
  - H.R. 4937 was approved by the T&I Committee on 4/20/16 and H.R. 5050 was approved by the E&C Committee on 4/27/16.
- **The Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 (S. 1935)**
  - Seeks to revitalize waterfront communities by supporting efforts to draw water-dependent industries and investments that leverage water sustainably, revitalizing neighborhoods, and enhancing recreation and tourism.
  - The Senate Commerce Committee approved the bill on 12/9/15.
- **The Great Lakes Fishery Research Authorization Act of 2016 (H.R. 4595 and S. 2569)**
  - Provides the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Great Lakes Science Center with the dedicated funding it needs to conduct critical research and support the \$7 billion Great Lakes sport and commercial fishery industry.

# Questions



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# Regional Roundtable



**Senator Darwin Booher**  
Michigan  
GLLC Vice Chair



**Speaker Dave Levac**  
Ontario



**MNA Guy Ouellette**  
Québec



**Senator Ed Charbonneau**  
Indiana



**Senator Ann Rest**  
Minnesota  
Past Chair



**Representative Cory Mason**  
Wisconsin  
GLLC Chair

# Announcements

- GLLC 2016 Annual Meeting
  - July 15-16 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee
  - Register and reserve a room by June 10
  - Meeting information is available at [greatlakeslegislators.org](http://greatlakeslegislators.org)
  - Resolutions will be considered
  - Election of GLLC officers and Executive Committee members
    - Nominating period ends May 16

# Ways to Engage

- GLLC Website: [greatlakeslegislators.org](http://greatlakeslegislators.org)
- CSG Midwest YouTube channel: [bit.ly/CSGMidwestYT](http://bit.ly/CSGMidwestYT)
- GLLC Membership Online Enrollment: [bit.ly/joinGLLC](http://bit.ly/joinGLLC)
- Follow the Caucus on Twitter: [@GLLCaucus](https://twitter.com/GLLCaucus)

*Thank you for attending!*



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