Great Lakes Policy Update
Friday, March 4

Hosted by the
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (with staff support from the Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments)
About the GLLC

• The GLLC is a binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from the Great Lakes region.

• Organized around the principle of assuring that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River continue to provide a plentiful source of clean, affordable water to the region’s residents, businesses, and industries.

• Legislators may enroll at greatlakeslegislators.org.

Sen. Robyn Gabel
Illinois
Chair

Rep. Jennifer Schultz
Minnesota
Vice Chair
About Today’s Web Session

- Overview of the GLLC’s Policy Agenda and Related Developments in the States and Provinces
- Great Lakes Policy in Washington, D.C.: Recent Progress and Opportunities for 2022 | Presentation by Marc Smith, Policy Director at the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center
- Q & A and Discussion

Marc Smith
Five-Point Policy Agenda of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus

1. Curb nutrient pollution and prevent harmful algal blooms
2. Build climate resiliency in coastal communities
3. Accelerate cleanup of toxic substances and “Areas of Concern”
4. Ensure access to clean water
5. Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
Related Developments in Great Lakes States, Provinces

- New Law in Illinois on Lead, Affordability of Drinking Water
  - HB 3739 of 2021

- New Constitutional ‘Right to Clean Water’ in New York
  - Legislately initiated constitutional amendment
Related Developments in Great Lakes States, Provinces

- **Minnesota’s Efforts to Control Invasive Species**
  - Current budget provides $14 million over the biennium on projects (water-access inspections, public awareness campaigns, monitoring, etc.) and research to control the spread of invasive species.
  - Funds the University of Minnesota’s Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.
  - Invests in new partnerships with commercial anglers, new monitoring and removal techniques, and installation of new barriers to address the problem of invasive carp.
Related Developments in Great Lakes States, Provinces

- Continuing Efforts to Control Nutrient Pollution
  - Expansion of H2Ohio
  - New $25 million pilot project in Michigan
  - Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability Program in Ontario
GREAT LAKES POLICY: PROGRESS AND LOOKING FORWARD

Marc Smith
Policy Director
National Wildlife Federation | Great Lakes Regional Center
msmith@nwf.org
Great Lakes Policy

Progress and Looking Forward

Agenda:

1) Great Lakes Accomplishments in 2021

2) Great Lakes Opportunities in 2022

3) New Opportunities at the Regional and State Level

4) Discussion and Questions
Great Lakes Accomplishments 2021

• Historic investment in Water Infrastructure

• $1 Billion for GLRI

• Brandon Road Project Advances
Great Lakes Policy Opportunities 2022

• Great Lakes Restoration Funding
  • Securing increases to GLRI appropriations
  • Working towards an equitable and community led implementation

• Invasive Species
  • Fully funding the Brandon Road Lock & Dam and dedicated invasives programs
  • Implementing strong ballast water regulations

• Water Infrastructure
  • Ensuring equitable implementation of the IIJA
  • Securing increased appropriations in resilient and affordable drinking and wastewater infrastructure

• Clean Water and Wildlife
  • Farm Bill
  • Waters of the U.S.
  • Recovering America’s Wildlife Act
  • PFAS

• Ohio and Mississippi River Restoration

• Climate Resiliency
  • Fund the implementation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study
  • Build Back Better provisions
Regional and State Opportunities

- Leveraging Federal $\$
  - IIJA Implementation
  - Recovering America’s Wildlife Act
  - Farm Bill
  - Build Back Better provisions
- H2Ohio
- Water Bond (Ohio)
- Recreation Passport (Michigan)
Thank you for joining us today!

Visit the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus website for a recording of this webinar and to register for future webinars in this series greatlakeslegislators.org

Upcoming GLLC Web Sessions

Date: Friday, March 11
Time: 11 a.m. Eastern /10 a.m. Central
Topic: Climate Resiliency: New Opportunities for Great Lakes States and Coastal Communities

Date: Friday, March 18
Time: 2 p.m. Eastern /1 p.m. Central
Topic: Plastics in the Great Lakes: An Update on the Science and Discussions on Future Cleanup Efforts