The Honorable Barbara Boxer
410 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
456 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
509 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

June 29, 2010

Dear Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Inhofe, Senator Cardin, and Senator Crapo:

If recent events have shown us anything, it is that now more than ever our communities and wildlife depend on clean and healthy waters. We must invest now in our natural resources to ensure communities and our ways of life are preserved for future generations. On behalf of the Great Waters Coalition, who sent an earlier letter, as well as the following additional groups working to protect and restore our nation's waters, we ask for your support when the Environment and Public Works Committee considers a package of numerous restoration bills tomorrow. Our Great Waters are the crown jewels of our nation and our economy; clean, healthy waters are essential for our food, drinking water, and wildlife.

The organizations listed below work individually and collectively to protect and restore our nation's waters from innumerable threats including mismanagement, stormwater runoff, invasive species, excess nutrients, toxins, and unmanaged growth. Our failure to properly protect and restore these national treasures is a growing economic and environmental liability for the Americans that depend on them.

Investing in healthy ecosystems benefits us not only in the present but also builds ecosystem resiliency to withstand unanticipated threats. In a time of fiscal restraint, we must make investments wisely and cautiously. Restoration is such an investment. A recent economic study found that every one dollar invested in Great Lakes restoration returns two dollars in benefits. Further, according to NOAA and the Economic Policy Institute, restoration projects can potentially create 20 jobs for every one million dollars invested, preserving the livelihoods of workers in the tourism, recreation, and coastal commercial industries along with invaluable ecosystem services such as water filtration and storm surge protection. As members of organizations that work on restoration locally, we urge each of you to support passage of the following bills.

- Clean Estuaries Act (H.R. 4715)
- Puget Sound Recovery Act (S. 2739)
- Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act (S. 3073)
- Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act (S. 1816)
- Columbia River Basin Restoration Act (S. 3025)
- Gulf of Mexico Restoration and Protection Act (S. 1311)
- Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act (S. 3119)
- San Francisco Bay Restoration Act (S. 3539)

Passage of this legislation will strengthen America's commitment to these waters and help ensure that our waters are swimmable, fishable and drinkable.

Thank you for your support.

Alabama Rivers Alliance
Alliance for the Great Lakes
American Bottom Conservancy
American Rivers
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Audubon Naturalist Society
Audubon New York
Audubon Ohio
Biodiversity Project
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chester River Association
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future
Clean Wisconsin
Colorado Watershed Assembly
Conservation Voters of South Carolina
Corsica River Conservancy
Delaware Nature Society
Endangered Habitats League
Environment America
Freshwater Future
Friends of Blackwater
Friends of Lower Muskingum River
Genesee Valley Audubon Society
Gulf Restoration Network
Idaho Rivers United
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
Kentucky Resources Council
Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
Nevada Conservation League & Education Fund
Ohio Environmental Council
Oregon Conservation Network
People For Puget Sound
Raritan Riverkeeper

Restore America's Estuaries
River Network
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Save the River/Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper
Shaker Lakes Garden Club
Tennessee Clean Water Network
Trout Unlimited
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Western Lake Erie Waterkeeper Association
Western Reserve Resource Conservation & Development Council
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Yell County Wildlife Federation