

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 30, 2010

President Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania  
Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Prime Minister Stephen  
Harper  
Office of the Prime  
Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa K1A 0A2

Commissioners of the  
International Joint  
Commission  
2000 L St. NW Suite 615  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear President Obama, Prime Minister Harper and the Commissioners of the International Joint Commission:

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a devastating disaster that further illuminates the need to ensure we have the proper protections in place to prohibit a similar event from ever happening again. Further, we must remember not only to protect our oceans, but the Great Lakes as well, and ensure that these waters remain the pristine ecosystem and viable tourism and economic boon they are today.

In 2001, Congress adopted a ban on new oil and gas drilling of any kind in the U.S. waters of the Great Lakes, a ban that was extended twice through 2007. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) made this ban permanent. Importantly, however, the ban does not extend to Canadian waters and, in fact, Canada does conduct oil and gas extraction in Lake Erie.

The United States and Canada have a long history of working together to protect the Great Lakes. The 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty recognized this important relationship and acknowledged that each country is affected by the other's actions in the Great Lakes and other bodies of waters along our shared border.

In light of Canada's long history of environmental stewardship, we urge the U.S. and Canadian governments in coordination with the International Joint Commission, to undertake a review of oil and gas drilling by Canada in the Great Lakes, particularly in regard to safety, environmental impact and oil spill response plans. Ultimately we believe it is most appropriate for Canada to pursue a ban on drilling in the Great Lakes similar to the U.S. law.

From the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes, we have a moral obligation to leave our planet inhabitable for future generations, and it begins with taking the necessary precautions against potentially catastrophic and irrevocable harm to our natural resources and precious ecosystems.

Please contact Lindsey Matese in Congressman Quigley's office, (Ph. 202-225-4061) or Nick Choate in Congressman Stupak's office (202-225-4735), to follow up on this very important issue.

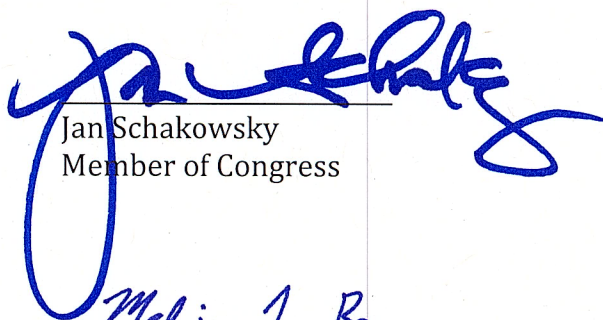
Sincerely,



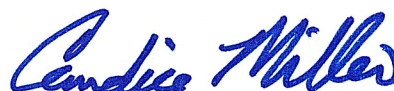
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress



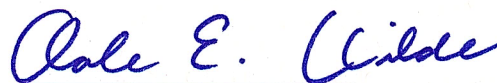
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



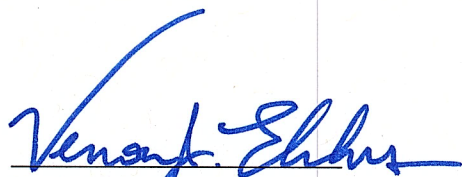
Candice Miller  
Member of Congress



Melissa Bean  
Member of Congress



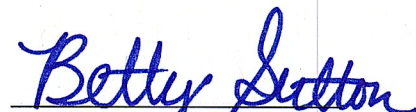
Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



Vern Ehlers  
Member of Congress



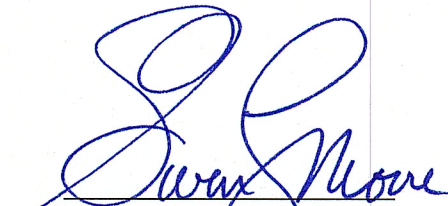
Mark Schauer  
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress

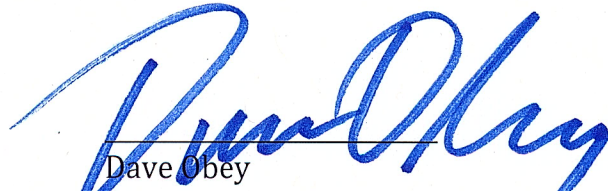


Bill Owens  
Member of Congress




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Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



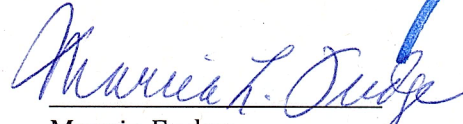
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Dave Obey  
Member of Congress




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Joe Sestak  
Member of Congress




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Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress



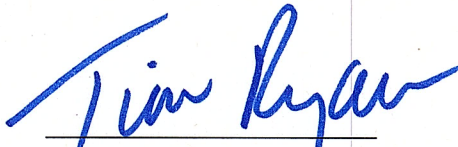
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Pete Hoekstra  
Member of Congress




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Gary Peters  
Member of Congress



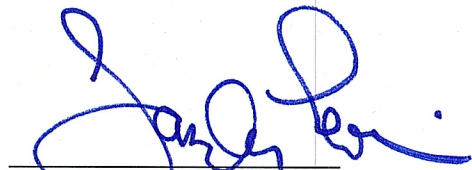
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Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress




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Kathy Dalkemper  
Member of Congress



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Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



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James Oberstar  
Member of Congress

*Louise Slaughter* *John Dingell*

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

John Dingell  
Member of Congress

*Betty McCollum*  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress