



**For Immediate Release:** April 29, 2009

**Contact:**

Andy Buchsbaum, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, (734) 717-3665

Jordan Lubetkin, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition (734) 904-1589

## **Federal Budget Resolution Charts Path for Great Lakes Restoration, Economic Recovery**

**ANN ARBOR, MICH. (April 29, 2009)**—Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed a joint budget resolution that includes support for restoring the Great Lakes and the other national ecosystems. The Senate is expected to pass the joint resolution soon.

Andy Buchsbaum, co-chair, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, said:

“After years and years of all talk and little action, we're finally getting action to restore the Great Lakes and revitalize the economy.

“This budget charts a path forward to advance Great Lakes restoration and economic recovery by funding President Obama’s \$475 million initiative to curb sewage pollution, halt aquatic invasive species introductions, clean up toxic pollution and address other serious threats.

“We’re looking to the region’s Congressional delegation to seize the day, invest in Great Lakes restoration and stand up for the millions of people who depend on the Lakes for their jobs, drinking water, and way of life.

“We're confident that the Great Lakes will finally get the funding they so urgently need, because these funds will not only heal the lakes, they'll also jumpstart the regional economy by producing good jobs right away.”

Support for Great Lakes restoration in the joint budget resolution is on page 46:

### **Sec. 604. Sense of the Congress on Great Lakes Restoration**

It is the sense of the Congress that this resolution recognizes the need to address significant and long-standing problems affecting the major large scale aquatic, estuarine, and coastal ecosystems nationwide. This resolution includes funding for a new interagency initiative to address such regional ecosystems. It also includes funding to work with Great Lakes States, tribes, local communities, and organizations to more effectively address issues prioritized in the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative. This initiative could address issues such as invasive species, habitat restoration and conservation, non-point sources pollution, and contaminated sediment. The resolution

also supports the President's proposal to use outcome-oriented performance goals and measures to target the most significant problems and track progress in addressing these ecosystems.

The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition consists of more than 100 environmental, conservation, outdoor recreation organizations, zoos, aquariums and museums representing millions of people, whose common goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

For more information, visit: <http://www.healthylakes.org/>