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**Contact:**

Jordan Lubetkin, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition (734) 904-1589  
lubetkin@nwf.org

## **Economic Recovery Act Important for Job Creation, Public Health, Great Lakes**

**ANN ARBOR, MICH. (April 29, 2009)**— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood are testifying today before a hearing of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The act contains \$4 billion through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for wastewater infrastructure projects to prevent sewage contamination and protect human health. The Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin will get about \$1.45 billion, as determined by formula.

Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition Campaign Director Jeff Skelding said:

“The economic recovery act is a shot in the arm in the effort to create jobs, protect human health and restore one of the nation’s natural wonders, the Great Lakes.

“Our country can further advance economic recovery and Great Lakes restoration by funding President Obama’s new \$475 million Lakes restoration initiative, before the problems get worse and the solutions more costly.

“We look forward to working with Congress and the Obama Administration to restore the source for over 90 percent of our country’s surface fresh water, because we know that an ailing Great Lakes cannot support a healthy economy.”

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/>**