



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Michigan HOW Coalition applauds *MI Great Lakes Plan*: Fix sewers. Clean toxic sites. Create Michigan jobs.**

DETROIT, MICH – The Michigan Healing Our Waters® (HOW) Coalition today congratulated Lt. Governor John Cherry and Michigan Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) upon the release of *MI Great Lakes Plan*, Michigan’s long-term plan to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Michigan HOW Coalition members assisted in developing the Plan from its inception and they remain devoted to implementing its recommendations to further stabilize and sustain Michigan’s most significant economic, social, and environmental asset, the Great Lakes.

The Coalition issued the following statement:

“The Michigan HOW Coalition is grateful for the opportunity to work with Lt. Gov. Cherry, the Office of the Great Lakes, and the participating public in compiling this necessary plan to protect and restore Michigan’s most treasured asset. At a time when the federal and state governments are searching for ways to put people back to work on projects that will lay the foundation for economic and structural stability, the *MI Great Lakes Plan* demonstrates the importance of investing in critical, ready-to-go projects in Michigan that will create jobs, protect the Great Lakes, and provide a means for Michigan’s long-term economic prosperity.

“President Obama and Michigan’s Congressional delegation have a historic opportunity to create jobs, protect and restore the Great Lakes, and improve human health while also building a sustainable and environmentally healthy infrastructure for Michigan. With shovel-ready projects to clean up toxic sites, fix our sewers, and restore critical wildlife and fishery habitats, these funds would immediately create thousands of jobs on top of bringing millions of dollars in economic revitalization to our local communities. According to Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan would realize a \$7-13 billion economic jolt from increased property values, tourism, fishing, recreation, and reduced costs to municipalities from Great Lakes restoration projects. In addition

to tangible economic benefits, these ready-to-go “green” projects will also protect human health and further expand Michigan’s growing tourism industry.

“Investing in Great Lakes Protection and Restoration at the state level is the same as investing in Michigan’s economic health. This Plan gives numerous recommendations that can be implemented without state dollars and the Michigan HOW Coalition looks forward to working with the OGL in identifying which of these priorities can be acted upon immediately.

“The Partners of the Michigan HOW Coalition stand behind our shared values of Great Lakes restoration and protection as well as healthy economic policy decisions; our collective organizations remain eager to continue working with local, state, and federal policy leaders to implement the recommendations of the *MI Great Lakes Plan*.”

The Executive Summary and full copy of the *MI Great Lakes Plan* can be obtained at [www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/MI-GLPlan\\_262388\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/MI-GLPlan_262388_7.pdf)

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Contacts:

Donna Stine, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – (517) 346-6487, dstine@mucc.org  
Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club – (313) 965-0055, melissa.damaschke@sierraclub.org  
Susan Harley, Clean Water Action - (517) 203-0754, sharley@cleanwater.org  
Dr. Sanjiv Sinha, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. – (734) 272-0859, ssinha@ectinc.com  
Dave Nyberg, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – (517) 346-6462, dnyberg@mucc.org

***The Michigan HOW Coalition***

*Belle Isle Nature Zoo*  
*Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority*  
*Clean Water Action*  
*Clinton River Public Advisory Council*  
*Clinton River Watershed Council*  
*Detroit Audubon Society*  
*Detroit River PAC*  
*Detroit Zoological Society*  
*ECT, Inc.*  
*Environment Michigan*  
*Fresh Water, Healthy Lives*  
*Freshwater Future*  
*Friends of the Detroit River*  
*Great Lakes Audubon*  
*Issac Walton League*  
*Kalamazoo River Watershed Council*  
*League of Women Voters*

*Michigan Environmental Council*  
*Michigan Land Use Institute*  
*MI League of Conservation Voters*  
*Michigan United Conservation Clubs*  
*Michigan Welfare Rights Organization*  
*Muskegon Lake Public Advisory Council*  
*National Wildlife Federation*  
*Rouge Advisory Council*  
*Ruddiman Creek Task Force*  
*Sierra Club*  
*The Conservation Fund*  
*The Nature Conservancy in Michigan*  
*Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council*  
*Toledo Zoo*  
*West MI Environmental Action Council*  
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