



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST HOUSE COALITION

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

September 2, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As members representing states and districts throughout the Great Lakes basin, we write to request that our tribal, commercial, charter, and recreational fisheries are made eligible for any future assistance Congress provides for fisheries in response to the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted earlier this year provided \$300 million to the Department of Commerce to aid tribal, subsistence, commercial, and charter fishery participants affected by the pandemic. However, the Department of Commerce has interpreted the law in a manner that disqualified our region from qualifying for CARES Act fishery assistance. We are disappointed that both the HEROES Act and the HEALS Act would continue this interpretation of excluding the Great Lakes, despite Great Lakes' fisheries existing partnerships with federal agencies, including the Department of Commerce.


As in the rest of the country, the economic calamity stemming from the pandemic is significantly harming our commercial, charter, recreational, and tribal fisheries. It is estimated that these fisheries and charter businesses have suffered up to \$50 million in losses over the last few months.

We support your efforts to help our nation's fisheries, tribes, and commercial and recreational fishing industries, and ask that you work with us to ensure any future coronavirus assistance is also available to our tribes and businesses in the Great Lakes basin.

Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress
Great Lakes Task Force
Democratic Co-Chair



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress
Great Lakes Task Force
Republican Co-Chair



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress
Great Lakes Task Force
Democratic Co-Chair



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress
Great Lakes Task Force
Republican Co-Chair

/s
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

/s
Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

/s
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

/s
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

/s
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

/s
Fred Upton
Member of Congress

/s
Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

/s
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

/s
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

/s
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s
John Moolenaar
Member of Congress