

## MENOMINEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Menominee County Courthouse  
839 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Menominee, MI 49858*

*Jason Carviou – County Administrator  
Sherry DuPont – Administrative Assistant  
Telephone: (906) 863-7779 or 863-9648  
Fax: (906) 863-8839*

### **RESOLUTION 2019-14**

#### *FUNDING THE GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE*

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 90 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. This globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more than 30 million people and directly supports 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) provides essential funding to restore and protect the Great Lakes. This funding has supported long overdue efforts to clean up toxic pollution, reduce runoff from cities, industries, and farms, combat invasive species, and restore fish and wildlife habitat. Since 2010, the federal government has partnered with public and private entities and invested more than \$2 billion in over 2,900 projects throughout the region. Over its first six years, the GLRI has provided more than \$425 million for more than 500 projects in Michigan alone. The Brookings Institution has estimated that every dollar invested in the Great Lakes produces two dollars in long-term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, GLRI projects are making a significant difference. They have restored more than 150,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat; opened up fish access to more than 3,400 miles of rivers; helped implement conservation programs on more than 1 million acres of farmland; and accelerated the cleanup of toxic hotspots. In Michigan, GLRI funding has been instrumental in removing invasive Phragmites along the shores of Green Bay, remediation and habitat restoration in the Menominee River, revitalizing Lake Michigan sturgeon populations, habitat restoration at Sea Gull Bar, and building fish passages around the lower dams of the Menominee River; and

WHEREAS, While a significant investment, past GLRI funding represents only a small portion of the amount needed to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Toxic algae blooms, beach closings, fish consumption advisories, and the presence of contaminated sediments continue to limit the recreational and commercial use of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Any cuts to GLRI funding would jeopardize the momentum from over a decade of unprecedented regional cooperation. Draft federal budgets have proposed a 97 percent reduction in GLRI funding. These drastic cuts would be a short-sighted, short-term cost-saving measure with long-term adverse implications. Restoration efforts will only become more expensive and more difficult if they are not addressed now and in the coming years.

*Steven Gromala*

*Gerald Piche – Chairperson*

*William Cech – Vice Chairperson*

*Larry Phelps*

*Larry Johnson Jr.*

*Jan Hafeman*

*David Prestin*

*Bernie Lang*

*Larry Schei*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Menominee County Board of Commissioners opposes any reduction of federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation as well as the other 82 Michigan counties.

Motion by Commissioner Hafeman, supported by Commissioner Gromala to adopt above resolution at a regular meeting of the Menominee County Board of Commissioners, this 9th day of July, 2019.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

  
Gerald Piche, Chairperson  
Menominee County Board of Commissioners

  
Marc Kleiman  
Menominee County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN            )  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF MENOMINEE    )

I hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and complete copy of Resolution 2019-14 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Menominee County at a regular meeting held on July 9, 2019 and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

  
Marc Kleiman, Menominee County Clerk