



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

July 12, 2004

Dr. Thomas R. Kitsos, Executive Director
US Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Kitsos:

I thank the United States Commission on Ocean Policy for its diligence in addressing the challenges of sustaining our coastal and ocean resources through a comprehensive set of recommendations, the first in 30 years.

Wisconsin supports some aspects of the draft Ocean Report. The vision of working together to uniformly promote the sustainability of coastal and ocean resources, regional and federal agency cooperation, additional funding for coastal and ocean resources management and reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act is vital for America.

However, the report falls short in addressing the special needs of the Great Lakes as well as the critical role that the Council of Great Lakes Governors will play in the restoration efforts. The Great Lakes basin is home to more than 34 million people in the US and Canada. The Lakes provide drinking water, freshwater habitat, economic opportunity and recreation. More than 2.5 billion gallons of water from the Great Lakes are used for public benefit each day, with 700 million gallons used for drinking water.

The Great Lakes region accounts for 20 percent of US manufacturing. The Lakes carry more than 190 million tons of cargo, providing \$3.4 billion in business and more than 150,000 jobs. Commercial and recreational fishing generate more than \$3 billion annually and recreational boaters spend more than \$2.6 billion each year. Due to these factors, it is vital that protection and restoration of the Great Lakes be a priority. The entire Great Lakes basin faces a number of tremendous challenges, in particular protecting the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species that make their way into our ecosystem through the ballast discharges from ocean going vessels and other sources. Additionally, any restoration progress must address how to minimize contaminated sediment from being deposited into the Great Lakes.

As Governor of Wisconsin and incoming Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, I invite you to include the following priorities in the final report:

- Support federal funding for Great Lakes Restoration through the Great Lakes Environmental Restoration Act (S. 1398) or the Great Lakes Financing Act of 2003 (H.R. 2720).
- Support efforts to stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species.
- Support reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

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- Promote programs to protect human health against adverse effects of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Control pollution from diffuse sources into water, land and air.
- Continue to reduce the introduction of persistent bioaccumulative toxics into the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Enhance fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting coastal wetlands, fish and wildlife habitats.
- Restore to environmental health the Areas of Concern identified by the International Joint Commission.
- Standardize and enhance the methods by which information is collected, recorded and shared within the region.
- Adopt sustainable use practices that protect environmental resources and enhance the recreational and commercial value of our Great Lakes.

The United States Commission on Ocean Policy has an opportunity to develop a truly comprehensive set of recommendations by addressing the special needs of the world's largest freshwater ecosystem. I respectfully ask that the Commission give greater attention to the Great Lakes basin in its final report.

Sincerely,



Jim Doyle
Governor