

RESOLUTION # 4

Maintain FY 2019 Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Whereas, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) was launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest surface fresh water system on the Earth, accounting for 84% of North America's surface fresh water; and,

Whereas, the GLRI is vital for the protection of ecologically unique habitats within the Great Lakes basin, that includes eight US States and two Canadian Provinces; and,

Whereas, the GLRI has provided approximately \$2.3 Billion federal funds to support 3,956 projects, focused on improving water quality, protecting native habitat, cleaning up environmentally impaired areas, protecting human health, and combating invasive species; and,

Whereas, the Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health progress through FY 2016 has prevented an estimated 402,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering the Great Lakes; and,

Whereas, more than 180,000 acres of habitat including 17,500 acres of coastal wetlands and 642 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and riparian corridors have been protected, restored, or enhanced; and,

Whereas, GLRI investments have resulted in increasing property values and property tax bases by targeting and cleaning up 65 Beneficial Use Impairments within the Great Lakes basin; and,

Whereas, the GLRI supports protection of drinking water sources for those communities who draw their water from the Great Lakes, thus reducing infrastructure costs of water treatment; and,

Whereas, the GLRI, federal agencies and local partners have taken actions to control invasive species on over 115,000 acres; and,

Whereas, halting or dramatically reducing this commitment to our Great Lakes would reverse years of progress and jeopardize the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes region; and,

Whereas, in 2017 nearly 50 House members, including bi-partisan support from Wisconsin's House members, called for maintaining (GLRI) funding at the annual level of \$300 million; and,

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association encourages the entire Wisconsin legislative delegation to propose the \$300 million annual funding level for the GLRI in the upcoming FY 2019 federal budget.

Adopted this date March 16, 2018

Board of Directors - Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association