



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

July 29, 2015

Dr. Susan Hedman  
Program Manager  
Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Dr. Hedman,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative application submitted by Central Michigan University in response to the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program request for applications. If funded, critical round two sampling would provide follow-up data to track the success of these restoration projects.

A broad consortium of colleagues across the Great Lakes region, organized by Central Michigan University, is completing the initial five-year monitoring program this summer that will cover nearly every wetland across all lakes. Team members at SUNY-College at Brockport, located in my district, conducted the monitoring on the US side and portions of the Canadian side of Lake Ontario, as well as on sites in eastern Lake Erie.

In the Rochester Embayment of Lake Ontario, the team at Brockport provided valuable pre-construction reference data for ongoing wetland restoration projects at Buck Pond (both Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy projects), Buttonwood Creek tributary to Braddock Bay (DU project), and Salmon Creek tributary to Braddock Bay (US Fish and Wildlife Service project). The team also provided the same type of data for the Corps' Braddock Bay project and expected projects by USFWS at Long Pond, Buck Pond and Salmon/West Creek.

As co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, I am keenly aware of the need for collaborative and comprehensive restoration of the Great Lakes. Coastal wetlands serve as important elements of a healthy and fully functioning Great Lakes ecosystem. The team at SUNY-College at Brockport is highly capable of engaging in standardized monitoring protocol, which will contribute to our understanding of the quality of remaining coastal wetland habitats.

Once again, I am pleased to support the continuation of this monitoring program to provide follow-up data to assist in tracking the success of these many restoration projects. I respectfully request that you give their application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Slaughter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Cc:

Mr. Chris Korleski, Director  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Great Lakes National Program Office  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Mr. Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to the Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507