

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2129

To improve the coordination of programs for the Great Lakes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2005

Mr. EHLERS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. PETRI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CAMP, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. KIND, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. MCCOTTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Resources, Agriculture, and Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve the coordination of programs for the Great
Lakes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “Great Lakes Environ-
5 mental Protection and Restoration Programs Reauthoriza-
6 tion Act” .

1 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES DEFINED.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the term “Great Lakes”
 3 means Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron (including
 4 Lake St. Clair), Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior, and
 5 the connecting channels (Saint Mary’s River, Saint Clair
 6 River, Detroit River, Niagara River, and Saint Lawrence
 7 River to the Canadian Border).

8 **TITLE I—FUNDING**
 9 **REAUTHORIZATIONS**

10 **SEC. 101. GREAT LAKES FISHERY AND ECOSYSTEM RES-**
 11 **TORATION.**

12 Section 506(g) of the Water Resources Development
 13 Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–22) is amended—

14 (1) by striking paragraph (2); and

15 (2) inserting the following:

16 “(2) There are authorized to carry out para-
 17 graphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c)—

18 “(A) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

19 “(B) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

20 “(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

21 “(D) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

22 “(E) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

23 “(F) \$110,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”.

1 **SEC. 102. GREAT LAKES REMEDIAL ACTION PLANS AND**
 2 **SEDIMENT REMEDIATION.**

3 Section 401 of the Water Resources Development Act
 4 of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 1268nt) is amended—

5 (1) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
 6 following:

7 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
 9 tion—

10 “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

11 “(2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

12 “(3) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

13 “(4) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

14 “(5) \$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

15 “(6) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”.

16 **SEC. 103. SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT.**

17 Section 516(g) of the Water Resources Development
 18 Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2326b) is amended—

19 (1) by striking paragraph (2); and

20 (2) by inserting the following:

21 “(2) GREAT LAKES TRIBUTARY MODEL.—In ad-
 22 dition to any amounts made available under para-
 23 graph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to
 24 carry out subsection (e) \$10,000,000 for each of fis-
 25 cal years 2006 through 2011.”.

1 **SEC. 104. GREAT LAKES BASIN PROGRAM FOR SOIL ERO-**
2 **SION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL.**

3 Subsection (c) of section 1240P of the Food Security
4 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–3) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
8 out the program the following amounts:

9 “(1) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002
10 through 2006.

11 “(2) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

12 “(3) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

13 “(4) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

14 “(5) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

15 “(6) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”.

16 **SEC. 105. GREAT LAKES LEGACY ACT.**

17 (a) REMEDIATION OF SEDIMENT CONTAMINATION IN
18 AREAS OF CONCERN.—Clause (i) of section
19 118(c)(12)(H) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other amounts au-
21 thorized under this section, there are authorized to be ap-
22 propriated to carry out this paragraph—

23 “(1) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

24 “(2) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

25 “(3) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

26 “(4) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

1 “(5) \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

2 “(6) \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”.

3 (b) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Sec-
 4 tion 106(b)(1) of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain
 5 Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1271a(b)(1)) is amended to read
 6 as follows:

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
 8 appropriated to carry out this section—

9 “(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

10 “(B) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 11 2007 and 2008; and

12 “(C) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 13 2009 through 2011”.

14 **SEC. 106. GREAT LAKES NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.**

15 Subsection (h) of section 118 of the Federal Water
 16 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(h)) is amended to
 17 read as follows:

18 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 19 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
 20 tion—

21 “(1) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

22 “(2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

23 “(3) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

24 “(4) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

25 “(5) \$140,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

1 “(6) \$190,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”.

2 **SEC. 107. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PROGRAMS RE-**
3 **LATING TO GREAT LAKES FISHERIES RES-**
4 **TORATION.**

5 (a) GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORA-
6 TION PROGRAM.—To develop and implement proposals for
7 restoring fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes
8 Basin under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restora-
9 tion Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941 et seq.), and to encourage
10 cooperative conservation, restoration, and management of
11 fish and wildlife resources and their habitats under such
12 Act, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
13 retary of the Interior—

14 (1) for activities of the Great Lakes Coordina-
15 tion Office—

16 (A) \$4,000,000 for fiscal years 2006 and
17 2007;

18 (B) \$5,000,000 for fiscal years 2008 and
19 2009; and

20 (C) \$6,000,000 for fiscal years 2010 and
21 2011; and

22 (2) to implement proposals for the restoration
23 of fish and wildlife resources—

24 (A) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

25 (B) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

- 1 (C) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- 2 (D) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- 3 (E) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and
- 4 (F) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

5 (b) LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERIES RESEARCH.—

6 To coordinate and fund programs for research on fisheries
7 and ecosystems in the Lower Great Lakes under the Great
8 Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16
9 U.S.C. 941 et seq.), there are authorized to be appro-
10 priated to the Secretary of the Interior—

11 (1) for the activities of the Great Lakes Coordi-
12 nation Office, the Upper Great Lakes Fishery Re-
13 sources Office, and the Lower Great Lakes Fishery
14 Resources Office—

15 (A) \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years
16 2006 and 2007;

17 (B) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2008 and 2009; and

19 (C) \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2010 and 2011; and

21 (2) for implementation of fish and wildlife res-
22 toration research—

23 (A) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

24 (B) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

25 (C) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

1 (D) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and
2 (E) \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years
3 2010 and 2011.

4 **TITLE II—RESEARCH PROGRAM**

5 **SEC. 201. RESEARCH REAUTHORIZATIONS.**

6 Section 118(e) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
7 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(e)) is amended—

8 (1) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(e) RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT COORDINA-
11 TION.—

12 “(1) JOINT PLAN.—Before October 1 of each
13 year, the Program Office and the Research Office
14 shall prepare and submit to the Executive Com-
15 mittee of the Regional Collaboration a joint research
16 plan for the fiscal year which begins in the following
17 calendar year. The plan shall be transmitted to Con-
18 gress at the time of transmission of the President’s
19 annual budget request.

20 “(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Each plan prepared
21 under paragraph (1) shall—

22 “(A) identify all proposed research dedi-
23 cated to activities conducted under the Great
24 Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978, as
25 amended by the Water Quality Agreement of

1 1987, and any other agreements and amend-
2 ments;

3 “(B) include the Regional Collaboration’s
4 assessment of priorities for research needed to
5 fulfill the terms of such Agreement; and

6 “(C) identify all proposed research that
7 may be used to develop a comprehensive envi-
8 ronmental data base for the Great Lakes Sys-
9 tem and establish priorities for development of
10 such data base. ”.

11 **SEC. 202. GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
13 tor of the United States Geological Survey, for use by the
14 Great Lakes Science Center, to carry out research activi-
15 ties that advance scientific knowledge and provide sci-
16 entific information for restoring, enhancing, managing,
17 and protecting the living marine resources and habitats
18 in the Great Lakes basin ecosystem the following:

19 (1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

20 (2) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

21 (3) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008
22 through 2011.

1 **SEC. 203. GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LAB-**
2 **ORATORY.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 118(h) of the Fed-
4 eral Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(h)) is
5 amended —

6 (1) by inserting “, for use by the Research Of-
7 fice,” after “Administrator”;

8 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
9 (2); and

10 (3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(3) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;

13 “(4) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

14 “(5) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

15 “(6) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

16 “(7) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

17 “(8) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

18 “(9) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”.

19 (b) GRANTS.—Section 118(d)(6) of the Federal
20 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.) is amended by
21 adding at the end the following: “The Laboratory may
22 provide grants for such research and monitoring activi-
23 ties.”.

1 **TITLE III—STATE REVOLVING**
2 **FUNDS FOR CLEAN WATER**

3 **SEC. 301. REFERENCES.**

4 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
5 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
6 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
7 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
8 section or other provision of the Federal Water Pollution
9 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 302. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL AND SMALL
12 TREATMENT WORKS.—Section 104(b) (33 U.S.C.
13 1254(b)) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
15 (6);

16 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
17 graph (7) and inserting “; and”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(8) make grants to nonprofit organizations—

20 “(A) to provide technical assistance to
21 rural and small municipalities for the purpose
22 of assisting, in consultation with the State in
23 which the assistance is provided, such munici-
24 palities in the planning, developing, and acquisi-

tion of financing for wastewater infrastructure assistance;

“(B) to capitalize revolving loan funds for the purpose of providing loans, in consultation with the State in which the assistance is provided, to rural and small municipalities for predevelopment costs associated with wastewater infrastructure projects or short-term costs incurred for equipment replacement that is not part of regular operation and maintenance activities for existing wastewater systems, subject to the conditions that any loan from the fund will be made at a below market interest rate, for a term not to exceed 10 years, and in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and that all loan repayments will be credited to the fund;

“(C) to provide technical assistance and training for rural and small publicly owned treatment works and decentralized wastewater treatment systems to enable such treatment works and systems to protect water quality and achieve and maintain compliance with the requirements of this Act; and

“(D) to disseminate information to rural and small municipalities and municipalities that

1 meet the affordability criteria established pur-
2 suant to section 603(i)(2) by the State in which
3 the municipality is located with respect to plan-
4 ning, design, construction, and operation of
5 publicly owned treatment works and decentral-
6 ized wastewater treatment systems.”.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
8 104(u) (33 U.S.C. 1254(u)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “and (6)” and inserting “(6)”;
10 and

11 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
12 following: “; and (7) not to exceed \$75,000,000 for
13 each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010 for carrying
14 out paragraphs (3) and (8) of subsection (b), except
15 that not less than 20 percent of the amounts appro-
16 priated pursuant to this paragraph in a fiscal year
17 shall be used for carrying out paragraph (8) of sub-
18 section (b) and not more than one-third of the
19 amount used in a fiscal year for carrying out para-
20 graph (8) of subsection (b) may be used to carry out
21 subparagraph (B) of that paragraph”.

22 (c) COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING
23 GRANTS.—Section 104 (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)) is amended
24 by adding at the end the following:

1 “(w) COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING
 2 GRANTS.—The Administrator shall establish procedures
 3 that, to the maximum extent practicable, promote com-
 4 petition and openness in the award of grants to nonprofit
 5 private agencies, institutions, and organizations under this
 6 section.”.

7 **SEC. 303. SEWER OVERFLOW CONTROL GRANTS.**

8 Section 221(c) (33 U.S.C. 1301) is amended to read
 9 as follows:

10 “(c) FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED COMMUNITY DE-
 11 FINED.—In subsection (b), the term ‘financially distressed
 12 community’ means a community that meets affordability
 13 criteria established pursuant to section 603(i)(2) by the
 14 State in which the community is located under section
 15 603(i)(2).”.

16 **SEC. 304. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING LOAN**
 17 **FUNDS.**

18 (a) EXTENDED PAYMENT PERIOD.—Section
 19 603(d)(1) (33 U.S.C. 1383(d)(1)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “20 years”
 21 and inserting “the lesser of 30 years or the design
 22 life of the project to be financed with the proceeds
 23 of the loan”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (B) by striking “not later
2 than 20 years after project completion” and insert-
3 ing “upon the expiration of the term of the loan”.

4 (b) TECHNICAL AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE FOR
5 SMALL SYSTEMS.—Section 603(d) (33 U.S.C. 1383(d)) is
6 amended—

7 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
8 (6);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
10 graph (7) and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(8) to provide owners and operators of small
13 treatment works (for a municipality or intermunic-
14 ipal interstate or State agency that is seeking assist-
15 ance under this title and serves a population of
16 20,000 or fewer) with technical and planning assist-
17 ance and assistance in financial management, user
18 fee analysis, budgeting, capital improvement plan-
19 ning, facility operation and maintenance, repair
20 schedules, and other activities to improve wastewater
21 treatment plant management and operations; except
22 that such amounts shall not exceed 2 percent of
23 grant awards to such fund under this title.”.

1 (c) ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIZATION.—Section 603 (33
 2 U.S.C. 1383) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 3 lowing:

4 “(i) ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIZATION.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a
 6 State provides assistance to a municipality or inter-
 7 municipal, interstate, or State agency under sub-
 8 section (d), the State may provide additional sub-
 9 sidization, including forgiveness of principal and
 10 negative interest loans—

11 “(A) to benefit a municipality that—

12 “(i) meets the State’s affordability
 13 criteria established under paragraph (2);
 14 or

15 “(ii) does not meet the State’s afford-
 16 ability criteria if the recipient—

17 “(I) seeks additional subsidiza-
 18 tion to benefit individual ratepayers in
 19 the residential user rate class;

20 “(II) demonstrates to the State
 21 that such ratepayers will experience a
 22 significant hardship from the increase
 23 in rates necessary to finance the
 24 project or activity for which assistance
 25 is sought; and

1 “(III) ensures, as part of an as-
2 sistance agreement between the State
3 and the recipient, that the additional
4 subsidization provided under this
5 paragraph is directed through a user
6 charge rate system (or other appro-
7 priate method) to such ratepayers; or

8 “(B) to implement alternative processes,
9 materials, and techniques (including non-
10 structural protection of surface waters, new or
11 improved methods of waste treatment, and pol-
12 lutant trading) that may result in cost savings
13 or increased environmental benefit when com-
14 pared to standard processes, materials, and
15 techniques.

16 “(2) AFFORDABILITY CRITERIA.—

17 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—On or before Sep-
18 tember 30, 2006, and after providing notice
19 and an opportunity for public comment, a State
20 shall establish affordability criteria to assist in
21 identifying municipalities that would experience
22 a significant hardship raising the revenue nec-
23 essary to finance a project or activity eligible
24 for assistance under section 603(c)(1) if addi-
25 tional subsidization is not provided. Such cri-

1 teria shall be based on income data, population
2 trends, and other data determined relevant by
3 the State.

4 “(B) EXISTING CRITERIA.—If a State has
5 previously established, after providing notice
6 and an opportunity for public comment, afford-
7 ability criteria that meet the requirements of
8 subparagraph (A), the State may use the cri-
9 teria for the purposes of this subsection. For
10 purposes of this Act, any such criteria shall be
11 treated as affordability criteria established
12 under this paragraph.

13 “(C) INFORMATION TO ASSIST STATES.—
14 The Administrator may publish information to
15 assist States in establishing affordability cri-
16 teria described in subparagraph (A).

17 “(3) PRIORITY.—A State may give priority to a
18 recipient for a project or activity eligible for funding
19 under section 603(c)(1) if the recipient meets the
20 State’s affordability criteria.

21 “(4) SET-ASIDE.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In any fiscal year in
23 which the Administrator has available for obli-
24 gation more than \$1,400,000,000 for the pur-
25 poses of carrying out this title, a State shall

1 provide additional subsidization under this sub-
2 section in the amount specified in subparagraph
3 (B) to eligible entities described in paragraph
4 (1) for projects and activities identified in the
5 State’s intended use plan prepared under sec-
6 tion 606(c) to the extent that there are suffi-
7 cient applications for such assistance.

8 “(B) AMOUNT.—In a fiscal year described
9 in subparagraph (A), a State shall set aside for
10 purposes of subparagraph (A) an amount not
11 less than 25 percent of the difference be-
12 tween—

13 “(i) the total amount that would have
14 been allotted to the State under section
15 604 for such fiscal year if the amount
16 available to the Administrator for obliga-
17 tion under this title for such fiscal year
18 was equal to \$1,400,000,000; and

19 “(ii) the total amount allotted to the
20 State under section 604 for such fiscal
21 year.

22 “(5) LIMITATION.—The total amount of addi-
23 tional subsidization provided under this subsection
24 by a State may not exceed 30 percent of the total
25 amount of capitalization grants received by the State

1 under this title in fiscal years beginning after Sep-
2 tember 30, 2005.”.

3 **SEC. 305. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 604(a) (33 U.S.C.
5 1384(a)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(a) ALLOTMENTS.—

7 “(1) FISCAL YEARS 2005 AND 2006.—Sums ap-
8 propriated to carry out this title for each of fiscal
9 years 2005 and 2006 shall be allotted by the Admin-
10 istrator in accordance with the formula used to allot
11 sums appropriated to carry out this title for fiscal
12 year 2004.

13 “(2) FISCAL YEAR 2007 AND THEREAFTER.—
14 Sums appropriated to carry out this title for fiscal
15 year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter shall be al-
16 lotted by the Administrator as follows:

17 “(A) Amounts that do not exceed
18 \$1,350,000,000 shall be allotted in accordance
19 with the formula described in paragraph (1).

20 “(B) Amounts that exceed \$1,350,000,000
21 shall be allotted in accordance with the formula
22 developed by the Administrator under sub-
23 section (d).”.

1 (b) PLANNING ASSISTANCE.—Section 604(b) (33
 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)) is amended by striking “1 percent” and
 3 inserting “2 percent”.

4 (c) FORMULA.—Section 604 (33 U.S.C. 1384) is
 5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) FORMULA BASED ON WATER QUALITY
 7 NEEDS.—Not later than September 30, 2006, and after
 8 providing notice and an opportunity for public comment,
 9 the Administrator shall publish an allotment formula
 10 based on water quality needs in accordance with the most
 11 recent survey of needs developed by the Administrator
 12 under section 516(b).”.

13 **SEC. 306. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 Section 607 is amended by striking paragraphs (1)
 15 through (5) and inserting the following:

16 “(1) \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
 17 “(2) \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
 18 “(3) \$4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
 19 “(4) \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and
 20 “(5) \$6,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.”.

21 **TITLE IV—INTERAGENCY**
 22 **COORDINATION**

23 **SEC. 401. TASK FORCE.**

24 There is a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force with-
 25 in the Environmental Protection Agency, as originally es-

1 tablished by Executive Order No. 13340. In addition to
2 the duties described in the Executive Order, such Task
3 Force shall—

4 (1) ensure that program and project implemen-
5 tation is coordinated, effective, and cost-efficient;
6 and

7 (2) work in cooperation on the development of
8 budgets regarding the Great Lakes for the annual
9 submissions by the President to Congress of the
10 budget of the United States.

11 **TITLE V—FRAMEWORK FOR**
12 **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL**
13 **COLLABORATION**

14 **SEC. 501. COLLABORATION.**

15 There is a Framework for the Great Lakes Regional
16 Collaboration, a document signed and endorsed on Decem-
17 ber 3, 2004, by several members of the Great Lakes Gov-
18 ernors, Great Lakes Mayors, the Great Lakes Interagency
19 Task Force, tribal leaders, and members of the Great
20 Lakes Congressional Delegation. The duties of such Col-
21 laboration include—

22 (1) developing a restoration and protection
23 strategy to inform future program implementation
24 funding decisions;

- 1 (2) serving as a forum for addressing near-term
- 2 regional issues related to ecosystem restoration and
- 3 protection; and
- 4 (3) creating an oversight forum to coordinate
- 5 and enhance implementation of the strategy.

○