

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5180

To establish the Great Lakes Authority, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 1, 2022

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

A BILL

To establish the Great Lakes Authority, and for other
purposes.

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 the “Great Lakes Authority
5 Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **AUTHORITY.**—The term “Authority” means
9 the Great Lakes Authority established by section
10 3(a)(1).

1 (2) GREAT LAKES.—The term “Great Lakes”
2 has the meaning given the term in section 118(a)(3)
3 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
4 U.S.C. 1268(a)(3)).

5 (3) GREAT LAKES COMMISSION.—The term
6 “Great Lakes Commission” means the Great Lakes
7 Commission established by article IV of the Great
8 Lakes Basin Compact.

9 (4) GREAT LAKES BASIN COMPACT.—The term
10 “Great Lakes Basin Compact” means the Great
11 Lakes Basin Compact to which Congress granted
12 consent in the Act of July 24, 1968 (Public Law
13 90–419; 82 Stat. 414).

14 (5) GREAT LAKES REGION.—The term “Great
15 Lakes region” means counties in the States of—

16 (A) Ohio (other than counties served by
17 the Appalachian Regional Commission estab-
18 lished by section 14301(a) of title 40, United
19 States Code);

20 (B) Illinois (other than counties served by
21 the Delta Regional Authority established under
22 subtitle F of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
23 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.));

24 (C) Indiana;

25 (D) Michigan; and

1 (E) Wisconsin.

2 (6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
3 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
4 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
5 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

6 (7) LAND BANK.—The term “land bank”
7 means a government entity, agency, or program, or
8 a special purpose nonprofit entity formed by 1 or
9 more units of government in accordance with a State
10 or local land bank enabling law, that has been des-
11 ignated by 1 or more State or local governments to
12 acquire, steward, repurpose, or dispose of vacant,
13 abandoned, or other problem properties in accord-
14 ance with locally determined priorities and goals.

15 (8) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.—The
16 term “local development district” means any of the
17 following entities for which the Governor of the
18 State in which the entity is located, or the appro-
19 priate State officer, certifies to the Authority that
20 the entity has a charter or authority that includes
21 the economic development of counties or parts of
22 counties or other political subdivisions within the
23 Great Lakes region:

1 (A) A nonprofit incorporated body orga-
 2 nized or chartered under the law of the State
 3 in which it is located.

4 (B) A nonprofit agency or instrumentality
 5 of a State or local government.

6 (C) A nonprofit agency or instrumentality
 7 created through an interstate compact.

8 (D) An economic development district (as
 9 defined in section 3 of the Public Works and
 10 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
 11 3122)).

12 (E) A nonprofit association or combination
 13 of bodies, agencies, entities, and instrumental-
 14 ities described in subparagraphs (A) through
 15 (D).

16 (9) PARTICIPATING STATE.—The term “parti-
 17 cipating State” means a State located within the
 18 Great Lakes region that elects to participate in the
 19 Authority.

20 **SEC. 3. GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT, MEMBERSHIP, AND EMPLOY-
 22 EES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the
 24 Great Lakes Authority.

25 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (A) FEDERAL AND STATE MEMBERS.—The
2 Authority shall be composed of the following
3 members:

4 (i) A Federal Cochairperson, to be ap-
5 pointed by the President, not later than 60
6 days after the date of enactment of this
7 Act, by and with the advice and consent of
8 the Senate.

9 (ii) A State Cochairperson, to be ap-
10 pointed in accordance with subparagraph
11 (C)(ii).

12 (iii) The Governor of each partici-
13 pating State.

14 (B) ALTERNATE MEMBERS.—

15 (i) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIR-
16 PERSON.—

17 (I) IN GENERAL.—The President
18 shall appoint an alternate Federal Co-
19 chairperson for the Authority.

20 (II) DUTIES.—The alternate
21 Federal Cochairperson appointed
22 under subclause (I), when not actively
23 serving as an alternate for the Fed-
24 eral Cochairperson, shall perform such

1 functions and duties as are delegated
2 by the Federal Cochairperson.

3 (ii) STATE ALTERNATES.—The State
4 member of a participating State may have
5 a single alternate, who shall be appointed
6 by the Governor of the participating State
7 from among the members of the cabinet or
8 personal staff of the Governor.

9 (iii) VOTING.—An alternate member
10 shall vote in the case of the absence, death,
11 disability, removal, or resignation of the
12 Federal or State member for which the al-
13 ternate member is an alternate.

14 (C) COCHAIRPERSONS.—The Authority
15 shall be headed by—

16 (i) the Federal Cochairperson, who
17 shall serve as a liaison between the Federal
18 Government and the Authority; and

19 (ii) a State Cochairperson, who shall
20 be a Governor of a participating State and
21 shall be elected by the State members for
22 a term of not less than 1 year.

23 (D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—A State mem-
24 ber may not be elected to serve as State Co-
25 chairperson for more than 2 consecutive terms.

1 (E) QUALIFICATIONS.—To be eligible to be
2 appointed as the Federal Cochairperson under
3 subparagraph (A) or the alternate Federal Co-
4 chairperson under subparagraph (B)(i), an indi-
5 vidual—

6 (i) shall—

7 (I) be a citizen of the United
8 States;

9 (II) be a legal resident of a State
10 within the Great Lakes region;

11 (III) have management expertise
12 relating to a large for-profit or non-
13 profit corporate, government, or aca-
14 demic institution in a field of study or
15 industry relating to the functions of
16 the Authority; and

17 (IV) make full disclosure to Con-
18 gress of any investments or other fi-
19 nancial interests that the individual
20 may hold; and

21 (ii) shall not be an employee of the
22 Authority.

23 (3) COMPENSATION.—

24 (A) FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—The Fed-
25 eral Cochairperson shall be compensated by the

1 Federal Government at level III of the Execu-
 2 tive Schedule as described in section 5314 of
 3 title 5, United States Code.

4 (B) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIR-
 5 PERSONS.—Each alternate Federal Cochair-
 6 person shall be compensated by the Federal
 7 Government at level V of the Executive Sched-
 8 ule as described in section 5316 of title 5,
 9 United States Code.

10 (C) STATE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES.—
 11 Each State member and alternate shall be com-
 12 pensated by the applicable participating State
 13 represented by the member or alternate at an
 14 appropriate rate in accordance with the laws of
 15 that State.

16 (4) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
 19 (ii), the Authority shall fix the compensa-
 20 tion of an Executive Director and such
 21 other personnel as are necessary to enable
 22 the Authority to carry out the duties of the
 23 Authority.

24 (ii) MAXIMUM COMPENSATION.—Com-
 25 pensation fixed under clause (i) may not

1 exceed the maximum rate of basic pay es-
2 tablished for the Senior Executive Service
3 under section 5382 of title 5, United
4 States Code, including any applicable local-
5 ity-based comparability payment that may
6 be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C)
7 of that title.

8 (B) ELIGIBILITY.—The Executive Director
9 shall comply with the same qualification re-
10 quirements for the Federal Cochairperson and
11 State members of the Authority, as described in
12 paragraph (2)(E).

13 (C) DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—
14 The Executive Director shall be responsible
15 for—

16 (i) carrying out the administrative du-
17 ties of the Authority;

18 (ii) directing the Authority staff; and

19 (iii) such other duties as the Author-
20 ity may assign.

21 (5) NO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.—No
22 member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Au-
23 thority (other than the Federal Cochairperson, the
24 alternate Federal Cochairperson, staff of the Federal
25 Cochairperson, and any Federal employee detailed to

1 the Authority) shall be considered to be a Federal
 2 employee for any purpose.

3 (6) REMOVAL.—The Federal Cochairperson and
 4 the alternate Federal Cochairperson may be removed
 5 by the President only for inefficiency, neglect of
 6 duty, or malfeasance in office.

7 (7) COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS.—The
 8 Authority shall begin operations when—

9 (A) the Federal Cochairperson has been
 10 appointed by the President and confirmed by
 11 the Senate; and

12 (B) not fewer than 2 States in the Great
 13 Lakes region have elected to participate in the
 14 Authority.

15 (b) DECISIONS OF THE AUTHORITY.—

16 (1) REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL.—Except
 17 as provided in subsection (d)(3)(C), decisions by the
 18 Authority shall require the affirmative vote of the
 19 Federal Cochairperson and a majority of the State
 20 members (exclusive of members representing partici-
 21 pating States that are delinquent under clause (iii)
 22 of that subsection) at the applicable meeting in
 23 which the decision is being considered.

24 (2) CONSULTATION.—In matters coming before
 25 the Authority, the Federal Cochairperson shall, to

1 the extent practicable, consult with the Federal and
2 State departments and agencies having an interest
3 in the subject matter, including transportation plan-
4 ning entities in the Great Lakes region.

5 (3) QUORUM.—A quorum of the Federal Co-
6 chairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson
7 and 2 State members of the Authority shall be re-
8 quired to be present at any meeting in order for the
9 Authority to make any policy decision, including a
10 modification or revision of a Authority policy deci-
11 sion.

12 (c) FUNCTIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Authority shall—

14 (A) promote economic development and job
15 creation and to create worldclass worker edu-
16 cation and training institutions to spur eco-
17 nomic growth, especially in communities that
18 have been disproportionately affected by the
19 outsourcing of jobs, in the Great Lakes region;

20 (B) foster innovation and strengthen and
21 expand the core manufacturing and industrial
22 base in the Great Lakes region;

23 (C) not later than 1 year after the date of
24 enactment of this Act, and after taking into ac-
25 count State plans developed under section 6,

1 develop an economic development plan for the
2 Great Lakes region, including priorities and 5-
3 year regional outcome targets;

4 (D) provide technical assistance to eligible
5 entities receiving a grant from the Authority
6 under the economic development grant program
7 under section 5;

8 (E) develop, on a continuing basis, com-
9 prehensive and coordinated economic and work-
10 force development plans and programs and es-
11 tablish priorities under those plans and pro-
12 grams, giving due consideration to other Fed-
13 eral, State, Tribal, and local planning efforts in
14 the Great Lakes region;

15 (F) enhance the capacity of, and provide
16 support for, local development districts in the
17 Great Lakes region;

18 (G) review and study, in cooperation with
19 the applicable Federal, State, Tribal, or local
20 agency or department involved, Federal, State,
21 Tribal, and local public and private economic
22 and workforce development programs and,
23 where appropriate, recommend modifications or
24 additions that will increase the effectiveness of
25 those programs in the Great Lakes region;

1 (H) consult with Federal agencies in the
2 Great Lakes region on economic development
3 activities;

4 (I) promote coordination with the govern-
5 ment of Canada, including the provinces and
6 local governmental entities around the Great
7 Lakes region, on economic and workforce devel-
8 opment activities;

9 (J) consult with economic development dis-
10 tricts throughout the Great Lakes region to ad-
11 vance the functions of the Authority;

12 (K) conduct and sponsor investigations, re-
13 search, and studies, including an inventory and
14 analysis of the economic resources of the Great
15 Lakes region;

16 (L) in cooperation with Federal, State,
17 Tribal, and local agencies, sponsor demonstra-
18 tion projects designed to foster productivity and
19 growth in the Great Lakes region;

20 (M) encourage private investment in indus-
21 trial, commercial, and recreational projects in
22 the Great Lakes region;

23 (N) support broadband access and adop-
24 tion in the Great Lakes region; and

1 (O) in coordination with the Great Lakes
2 Commission, provide a forum for consideration
3 of economic and environmental problems of the
4 Great Lakes region, and proposed solutions to
5 those problems, and establish and utilize, as ap-
6 propriate, citizens and special advisory councils
7 and public conferences.

8 (2) IDENTIFY NEEDS AND GOALS OF SUB-
9 REGIONAL AREAS.—In carrying out the functions of
10 the Authority under paragraph (1), the Authority
11 shall identify the characteristics, and may distin-
12 guish between the economic needs and goals, of ap-
13 propriate subregional areas, including the respective
14 watersheds of each of the Great Lakes.

15 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND EXPENSES.—

16 (1) POWERS.—In carrying out the duties of the
17 Authority under this Act, the Authority may—

18 (A) enter into agreements and contracts
19 with eligible recipients (as defined in section
20 5(a)) in furtherance of the business of the Au-
21 thority;

22 (B) provide technical assistance to eligible
23 recipients (as so defined) receiving or seeking a
24 grant from the Authority;

1 (C) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws and
2 regulations governing the conduct of the busi-
3 ness of the Authority and the performance of
4 the functions of the Authority;

5 (D) make arrangements, including con-
6 tracts, with any participating State for inclu-
7 sion in a suitable retirement and employee ben-
8 efit system of Authority personnel who may not
9 be eligible for, or continue in, another govern-
10 mental retirement or employee benefit system,
11 or otherwise provide for that coverage of the
12 personnel of the Authority;

13 (E) enter into and perform contracts,
14 leases (including the lease of office space for
15 any term), cooperative agreements, or other
16 transactions necessary in order to carry out the
17 functions of the Authority, on such terms as the
18 Authority considers to be appropriate, with
19 any—

20 (i) department, agency, or instrumen-
21 tality of the Federal Government; or

22 (ii) participating State or political
23 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a
24 participating State;

1 (F) accept, use, and dispose of gifts, dona-
2 tions, services, or any property;

3 (G) maintain a governmental relations of-
4 fice in the District of Columbia;

5 (H) establish a permanent office and head-
6 quarters in the Great Lakes region;

7 (I) establish field offices at other places
8 throughout the Great Lakes region, as deter-
9 mined appropriate by the Authority; and

10 (J) take any other actions and incur any
11 other expenses as may be necessary or appro-
12 priate.

13 (2) FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION.—Each
14 Federal agency shall—

15 (A) cooperate with the Authority; and

16 (B) provide, to the extent practicable, on
17 request of the Federal Cochairperson, appro-
18 priate assistance in carrying out this Act, in ac-
19 cordance with applicable Federal laws (includ-
20 ing regulations).

21 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
23 graph (B), the administrative expenses of the
24 Authority shall be paid—

1 (i) by the Federal Government, in an
 2 amount equal to 50 percent of the admin-
 3 istrative expenses of the Authority; and

4 (ii) by participating States, in an
 5 amount equal to 50 percent of those ad-
 6 ministrative expenses.

7 (B) EXPENSES OF THE FEDERAL CHAIR-
 8 PERSON.—All expenses of the Federal Cochair-
 9 person, including expenses of the alternate and
 10 staff of the Federal Cochairperson, shall be
 11 paid by the Federal Government.

12 (C) STATE SHARE.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
 14 (ii), the share of administrative expenses of
 15 the Authority to be paid by each partici-
 16 pating State shall be determined by a ma-
 17 jority vote of the State members of the Au-
 18 thority.

19 (ii) NO FEDERAL PARTICIPATION.—
 20 The Federal Cochairperson shall not par-
 21 ticipate or vote in any decision under
 22 clause (i).

23 (iii) DELINQUENT STATES.—

24 (I) IN GENERAL.—During any
 25 period in which a participating State

1 is more than 1 year delinquent in pay-
 2 ment of the share of the participating
 3 State of administrative expenses of
 4 the Authority under this paragraph—

5 (aa) no assistance under this
 6 Act shall be furnished to that
 7 participating State; and

8 (bb) no member of the Au-
 9 thority from that participating
 10 State shall participate or vote in
 11 any action by the Authority.

12 (II) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 13 PROGRAM.—Any ongoing projects in a
 14 delinquent State that are funded
 15 under section 5 may continue during
 16 the period in which the State is delin-
 17 quent.

18 (e) MEETINGS.—

19 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—The Authority shall
 20 hold an initial meeting not later than 180 days after
 21 the date of enactment of this Act.

22 (2) ANNUAL MEETING.—The Authority shall
 23 conduct at least 1 meeting each year with the Fed-
 24 eral Cochairperson and at least a majority of the
 25 State members present.

1 (3) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Authority shall
3 conduct additional meetings at such times as
4 the Authority determines appropriate.

5 (B) FORMAT.—The Authority may conduct
6 meetings in person or via electronic means.

7 (f) PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTERESTS.—

8 (1) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

9 (A) NO ROLE ALLOWED.—Except as per-
10 mitted by subparagraph (B), an individual who
11 is the Federal Cochairperson or alternate Fed-
12 eral Cochairperson, a State member or alter-
13 nate, or an officer or employee of the Authority
14 shall not participate personally and substan-
15 tially as a member, alternate, officer, or em-
16 ployee of the Authority, through decision, ap-
17 proval, disapproval, recommendation, request
18 for a ruling, or other determination, contract,
19 claim, controversy, or other matter in which, to
20 the knowledge of the individual, any of the fol-
21 lowing has a financial interest:

22 (i) The individual.

23 (ii) A spouse, minor child, or partner
24 of the individual.

1 (iii) An organization (except a State
2 or political subdivision of a State) in which
3 the individual is serving as an officer, di-
4 rector, trustee, partner, or employee.

5 (iv) Any person or organization with
6 whom the individual is negotiating or has
7 any arrangement concerning prospective
8 employment.

9 (B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall
10 not apply if the individual, in advance of the
11 proceeding, application, request for a ruling, or
12 other determination, contract, claim con-
13 troversy, or other particular matter presenting
14 a potential conflict of interest—

15 (i) advises the Authority of the nature
16 and circumstances of the matter presenting
17 the conflict of interest;

18 (ii) makes full disclosure of the finan-
19 cial interest; and

20 (iii) receives a written decision of the
21 Authority that the interest is not so sub-
22 stantial as to be considered likely to affect
23 the integrity of the services that the Au-
24 thority may expect from the individual.

1 (C) VIOLATION.—An individual violating
2 this paragraph shall be fined under title 18,
3 United States Code, imprisoned for not more
4 than 1 year, or both.

5 (2) STATE MEMBER OR ALTERNATE.—A State
6 member or alternate State member of the Authority
7 may not receive any salary, or any contribution to,
8 or supplementation of, salary, for services on the
9 Authority from a source other than the participating
10 State represented by the member or alternate.

11 (3) DETAILED EMPLOYEES.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—No person detailed to
13 serve the Authority shall receive any salary, or
14 any contribution to, or supplementation of, sal-
15 ary, for services provided to the Authority from
16 any source other than the State, local, or inter-
17 governmental department or agency from which
18 the person was detailed to the Authority.

19 (B) VIOLATION.—Any person that violates
20 this paragraph shall be fined under title 18,
21 United States Code, imprisoned not more than
22 1 year, or both.

23 (4) FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON, ALTERNATE TO
24 FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON, AND FEDERAL OFFICERS
25 AND EMPLOYEES.—The Federal Cochairperson, the

1 alternate to the Federal Cochairperson, and any
2 Federal officer or employee detailed with the Au-
3 thority are not subject to this subsection but remain
4 subject to sections 202 through 209 of title 18,
5 United States Code.

6 (5) RESCISSION.—The Authority may declare
7 void any contract, loan, or grant of or by the Au-
8 thority in relation to which the Authority determines
9 that there has been a violation of any of paragraphs
10 (1)(A), (2), or (3), or any of sections 202 through
11 209 of title 18, United States Code.

12 (g) TRIBAL PARTICIPATION.—Governments of Indian
13 Tribes in the Great Lakes region shall be allowed to par-
14 ticipate in matters before the Authority in the same man-
15 ner and to the same extent as State agencies and instru-
16 mentalities in the Great Lakes region.

17 (h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after
18 the last day of each fiscal year, the Authority shall prepare
19 and submit to the Governor of each participating State
20 and the President, for transmittal to Congress, a report
21 on the activities carried out under this Act during the pre-
22 ceding fiscal year.

23 **SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

24 Section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of
25 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting “the Great

1 Lakes Authority,” after “the Federal Trade Commis-
 2 sion,”.

3 **SEC. 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—In this
 5 section, the term “eligible recipient” means—

6 (1) a State;

7 (2) a political subdivision of a State or a local
 8 government;

9 (3) a public agency or publicly chartered au-
 10 thority established by 1 or more States;

11 (4) a special purpose district with a transpor-
 12 tation, energy, environmental, or economic develop-
 13 ment function;

14 (5) an Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian
 15 Tribes;

16 (6) an institution of higher education (as de-
 17 fined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act
 18 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));

19 (7) a nonprofit entity;

20 (8) a local development district;

21 (9) a multistate or multijurisdictional group of
 22 entities described in any of paragraphs (1) through
 23 (8); and

1 (10) an entity described in any of paragraphs
2 (1) through (8) acting jointly with a private entity
3 or group of private entities.

4 (b) GRANTS.—The Authority may award grants, on
5 a competitive basis, to eligible recipients to promote eco-
6 nomic and workforce development, and to combat poverty
7 and economic decline, in the Great Lakes region.

8 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible recipient receiving
9 a grant under this section may use the grant to carry out
10 projects in the Great Lakes region, which shall include 1
11 or more of the following activities:

12 (1) Acquiring or developing land, including
13 making improvements to that land, for use for pub-
14 lic works, public service, or development facilities.

15 (2) Supporting the development of, and rein-
16 vestment in, land banks in the Great Lakes region.

17 (3) Supporting wastewater infrastructure
18 projects.

19 (4) Broadband infrastructure projects.

20 (5) Water infrastructure projects.

21 (6) Weatherization and lead abatement
22 projects.

23 (7) Supporting port infrastructure projects, in-
24 cluding supporting and expanding seaport infra-
25 structure—

1 (A) to enhance the movement of people or
2 goods;

3 (B) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

4 (C) to improve water quality; and

5 (D) to improve resiliency.

6 (8) Promoting workforce education and training
7 programs in the Great Lakes region, including pro-
8 grams that support incumbent workers that have ex-
9 perience economic displacement or train youth to
10 assume in-demand occupations within the Great
11 Lakes region.

12 (9) Promoting the development of renewable
13 and alternative energy sources.

14 (10) Promoting resource conservation, tourism,
15 recreation, and preservation of open space in a man-
16 ner consistent with economic development goals for
17 the Great Lakes region.

18 (11) Supporting entrepreneurship, business de-
19 velopment, and technology development in the Great
20 Lakes region.

21 (12) Growing the capacity for successful com-
22 munity economic development in the Great Lakes re-
23 gion.

24 (13) Facilitating the construction or rehabilita-
25 tion of housing to meet the needs of low-income and

1 moderate-income families and individuals in the
2 Great Lakes region.

3 (14) Developing surface transportation infra-
4 structure in the Great Lakes region.

5 (15) Supporting severely economically dis-
6 tressed communities in the Great Lakes region by
7 improving basic health care and other public serv-
8 ices.

9 (16) Any other activity that achieves the pur-
10 pose of the grants described in subsection (b), as de-
11 termined by the Authority.

12 (d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting activities to re-
13 ceive a grant from the Authority under this section, and
14 in establishing a priority ranking for applications sub-
15 mitted to the Authority for assistance under this section,
16 the Authority shall follow procedures that ensure, to the
17 maximum extent practicable, consideration of—

18 (1) the relationship of the project or class of
19 projects to overall development and poverty allevi-
20 ation in the Great Lakes region, including whether
21 the location of the project is in a severely and per-
22 sistently distressed county or area;

23 (2) the population and area to be served by the
24 project or class of projects, including the per capita

1 market income and the unemployment rates in the
2 area;

3 (3) the relative financial resources available to
4 the eligible recipient that seeks to undertake the
5 project;

6 (4) the importance of the project or class of
7 projects in relation to other projects or classes of
8 projects that may be in competition for the same
9 amounts under this section;

10 (5) the prospects that the project for which as-
11 sistance is sought will improve, on a continuing rath-
12 er than a temporary basis, the opportunities for em-
13 ployment in the Great Lakes region, including for
14 populations with the highest unemployment rates,
15 the average level of income, or the economic and so-
16 cial development of the area served by the project;
17 and

18 (6) the extent to which the project design pro-
19 vides for detailed outcome measurements by which
20 financing expenditures may be evaluated.

21 (e) REQUEST FOR DATA FOR BROADBAND INFRA-
22 STRUCTURE PROJECTS.—Before making a grant for a
23 project or activity described in subsection (c)(4), the Au-
24 thority shall request from the Federal Communications
25 Commission, the National Telecommunications and Infor-

1 mation Administration, the Economic Development Ad-
 2 ministration, and the Department of Agriculture data
 3 on—

4 (1) the level and extent of broadband service
 5 that exists in the area proposed to be served by the
 6 broadband service-related infrastructure; and

7 (2) the level and extent of broadband service
 8 that will be deployed in the area proposed to be
 9 served by the broadband service-related infrastruc-
 10 ture pursuant to another Federal program.

11 (f) MAXIMUM AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with para-
 13 graph (2), the Authority may contribute not more
 14 than 90 percent of a project or activity cost eligible
 15 for financial assistance under this section from
 16 amounts appropriated to carry out this section.

17 (2) DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES.—In making a
 18 contribution under paragraph (1), the Authority
 19 shall ensure that the Authority contributes a higher
 20 percentage for a project or activity to be carried out
 21 in a distressed community as compared to a project
 22 or activity to be carried out in a non-distressed com-
 23 munity.

24 (g) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Funds may be pro-
 25 vided by the Authority for a program or project in a par-

1 participating State under this section only if the Authority
 2 determines that the level of Federal or State financial as-
 3 sistance provided under a law other than this Act, for the
 4 same type of program or project in the same area of the
 5 State within the Great Lakes region, will not be reduced
 6 as a result of funds made available by this Act.

7 (h) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR ASSIST-
 8 ANCE.—

9 (1) EVALUATION BY STATE MEMBER.—An ap-
 10 plication submitted by an eligible recipient to the
 11 Authority for a grant under this section shall be
 12 made through, and evaluated for approval by, the
 13 State member of the Authority representing the eli-
 14 gible recipient.

15 (2) CERTIFICATION.—An application submitted
 16 by an eligible recipient to the Authority for a grant
 17 under this section shall be eligible for assistance only
 18 on certification by the State member of the Author-
 19 ity representing the eligible recipient that the appli-
 20 cation for the project—

21 (A) describes ways in which the project
 22 complies with any applicable State economic de-
 23 velopment plan developed under section 6(a);

24 (B) describes the 1 or more activities in-
 25 tended to be carried out using grant funds;

1 (C) adequately ensures that the project will
 2 be properly administered, operated, and main-
 3 tained; and

4 (D) otherwise meets the requirements for
 5 assistance under this section.

6 (3) VOTES FOR DECISIONS.—On certification by
 7 a State member of the Authority of an application
 8 for a grant under this section, an affirmative vote of
 9 the Authority under section 3(b)(1) shall be required
 10 for approval of the application.

11 (i) CONSULTATION WITH THE GREAT LAKES COM-
 12 MISSION ON CERTAIN PROJECTS.—The Authority shall
 13 consult with the Great Lakes Commission on any project
 14 submitted by an eligible recipient to the Authority under
 15 this section that impacts the water resources of the Great
 16 Lakes basin, as described in the Great Lakes Basin Com-
 17 pact, prior to awarding a grant under this section for the
 18 applicable project.

19 (j) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
 20 limits, alters, or amends the Great Lakes Basin Compact.

21 **SEC. 6. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 22 **PLANS.**

23 (a) STATE PLANS.—In accordance with policies es-
 24 tablished by the Authority, each State member of the Au-
 25 thority shall develop and submit a comprehensive eco-

1 nomic development plan for the area of the Great Lakes
2 region represented by that member.

3 (b) CONTENT OF PLAN.—A State economic develop-
4 ment plan developed under subsection (a) shall reflect the
5 goals, objectives, and priorities identified in any applicable
6 economic development plan developed by the Authority
7 under section 3(c).

8 (c) CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED LOCAL PAR-
9 TIES.—In carrying out the development planning process
10 (including the selection of programs and projects for as-
11 sistance) under subsection (a), a participating State
12 shall—

13 (1) consult with local development districts,
14 local units of government, and local colleges and uni-
15 versities; and

16 (2) take into consideration the goals, objectives,
17 priorities, and recommendations of the entities de-
18 scribed in paragraph (1).

19 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated not less than
21 \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year
22 thereafter—

23 (1) to carry out the economic development
24 grant program under section 5; and

- 1 (2) for administrative expenses of the Author-
2 ity.

