

Statement of Rep. Tim Walberg

**Before the
House Committee on Oversight and Reform**

**Regarding H.R. 1440, the Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp Act of
2019**

Thursday, March 28, 2019

(As prepared for delivery)

Good Morning Chairman Cummings and Republican Leader Jordan, thank you for inviting me to testify on H.R. 1440, the Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp Act.

The Great Lakes are something that residents of Michigan all treasure, and like the dozens of lighthouses that dot its coastline, they serve as a beacon of pride for our state. Like me, most families in our communities have fond memories of their time on the Great Lakes. They are a place we take our family fishing, hunting, camping, or simply to relax by the hundreds of miles of our beautiful beaches. And despite all of the disagreements we may have up here on Capitol Hill, everyone in Michigan can agree on protecting and promoting our Great Lakes.

While we are proud to call them home, the Great Lakes provide a critical foundation for commerce throughout the Midwest and, indeed, the country. In addition to attracting people from around the world to

travel the state, they provide the backbone for shipping around the Midwest and trade with our neighbors across the water in Canada.

As stewards of the Great Lakes, it is incumbent upon us to take care of them so that generations after us can enjoy their beauty and economic benefits. I take very seriously the challenges our Great Lakes face. We have made serious headway in cleaning up our Great Lakes, but we all know much work needs to be done to ensure they remain a national treasure fueling the Midwest economy and prosperity in Michigan.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, or the GLRI, is the driving force behind cleaning and preserving the Great Lakes. This roughly \$300 million program goes to restoring wetlands, combatting harmful algae blooms, and stopping invasive species from entering the Great Lakes. I deeply believe in fully funding this program, and it is a priority in our delegation—both Republicans and Democrats—to make sure this program receives full funding every year.

To advance the work of the GLRI, I introduced H.R. 1440, the Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp Act, along with Congressman Tim Ryan from Ohio. I know my constituents in Michigan and all those who call the Great Lakes home are as passionate about

protecting our Lakes as I am. This bill would give them an opportunity to show that support while contributing to the important work of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

H.R. 1440 would create a postage stamp featuring local artwork picturing the Great Lakes where proceeds would benefit the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. If enacted, this bill would allow the U.S. Postal Service to issue stamps at a slightly higher price with the differential being transferred for the purpose of bolstering funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner to preserve our Great Lakes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I yield back.