



**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**  
*Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008*

**S. 2994 Levin**

**An Act** to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern.

**Background**

In 1987, the U.S. and Canada identified and committed to restoring the 43 most toxic hot spots within the Great Lakes basin, known as areas of concern, or AoCs. The sediments in Great Lakes AoCs contain high concentrations of toxic chemicals and heavy metals, which threaten humans, aquatic organisms, and wildlife health. In New York State, AoCs are present in the Niagara River, Buffalo River, Eighteenmile Creek, Rochester Embayment, and St. Lawrence River at Massena.

**Justification**

The Great Lakes hold 20% of the world's fresh water, provide drinking water to 42 million people, and hold the key to our region's economy, recreational opportunities, and quality of life. More than 20 years after 43 of the most toxic hot spots in Great Lakes have been identified, only one, the Oswego River in NYS, has been delisted.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) is the most important tool that we have to clean up toxic hot spots in the Great Lakes. Since the GLLA was first authorized in 2004, important progress has been made to remediate these sites, however, much work remains undone. The legislation is set to expire on September 30, 2008.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008, which will reauthorize this important program, has incorporated recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, which will significantly strengthen the efficacy of the program.

**Summary of Provisions**

- Authorizes \$150 million annually from 2009 – 2013.
- Allows for demonstration or pilot project that uses innovative approaches, technologies, or techniques for the remediation of sediment contamination.
- Requires a public involvement and participation program.
- Gives priority to projects that will have environmental benefits and can be implemented quickly.

*Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is an 80,000 member, non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization working to protect public health and the natural environment in New York and Connecticut*

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (CCE) STORNGLY  
SUPPORTS THE ADOPTION OF THE GREAT LAKES LEGACY ACT OF 2008  
(S. 2994)**