

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

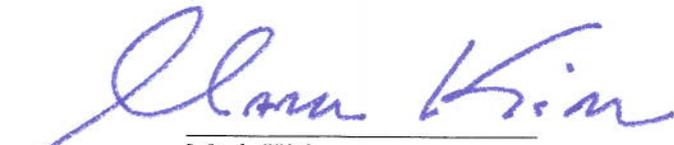
Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We urge you to swiftly implement public notice requirements for municipal treatment works that dump sewage into the Great Lakes as mandated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, Section 425 of P.L. 114-113.

An estimated 24 billion gallons of untreated sewage and stormwater, containing harmful pathogens, such as E. coli, are dumped into the Great Lakes every year, contaminating the source of recreation and drinking water for more than 30 million Americans. Too often, the public is not even informed the sewage dumping occurred and is directly exposed to the contaminated water. We must ensure the public is informed immediately and every time that sewage is dumped into our water, putting the public health of our citizens at risk. With the enacted legislation, we can protect our families and keep this issue in the spotlight, working toward a clean and sustainable future for the Great Lakes, the crown jewel of the Midwest.

Please provide us, in detail, the Environmental Protection Agency's plan and timeline for the implementation of public notice requirements for treatment works dumping sewage into the Great Lakes. We appreciate your attention and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
U.S. Senator



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator