

October 3, 2008 - Chairwoman Slaughter Applauds Enactment of Great Lakes Compact

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 3, 2008

Chairwoman Slaughter Applauds Enactment of Great Lakes Compact

President Signed Critical Legislation into Law Today

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chair of the House Committee on Rules and Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, today celebrated the enactment of critical legislation to approve the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, a multi-state agreement to manage and protect the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin.

"The Great Lakes are a treasure for our nation and a tremendous environmental and economic asset for New York," said Chairwoman Slaughter. "We simply must protect them. I believe that the enactment of the Great Lakes Compact will go a long way towards ensuring that the lakes are properly managed and preserved for years to come."

Eight states that border the Great Lakes- New York, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin - are party to the Compact. The legislature of each state has ratified the Compact. The Senate approved the Compact in August and the House followed suit last month. Today the President signed legislation to approve the compact into law.

BACKGROUND

The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact bans new and increased diversions of water outside the Great Lakes Basin with only limited, highly regulated exceptions.

The Compact calls on the signatory states to develop and implement water conservation programs that, collectively, will ensure improvement of the waters and water dependent natural resources; will protect the integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem; and, specifically, will retain and restore the quantity of surface water and groundwater in the Basin.

In addition, the Compact requires the Great Lakes states, in cooperation with the Canadian provinces, to conduct a periodic assessment every five years of the cumulative impacts of withdrawals, diversions, and consumptive uses of Great Lakes waters.

###