

Statement on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact

July 28, 2008

I congratulate the Governors and legislatures of the eight States that border the Great Lakes on their conclusion of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. Made in the spirit of cooperative conservation, this compact is the result of many years of close coordination and consensus building that resulted in the compact's approval by the eight Great Lakes States and two Canadian Provinces.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure. They were vital to the exploration of this continent and have long supported commerce. Today, more than 33 million people live in the States and Provinces bordering

the lakes, and the lakes provide an efficient means to transport food and other commodities destined for global markets. The Great Lakes provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities and serve as a source of drinking water for more than 30 million people.

The compact will ensure sustainable use and responsible management of waters from the Great Lakes Basin and preserve the Great Lakes for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

I strongly urge Congress to provide rapid approval of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Budget Amendment for the Department of the Interior

July 28, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendment to the FY 2009 Budget for the Department of the Interior. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2009 Budget would not be affected by this amendment.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks on Signing the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta's Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008 and the Renewal of Import Restrictions Contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003

July 29, 2008

Laura and I are welcome—are pleased to welcome members of the Lantos family. Mrs. Lantos, thanks for joining us; and

Members of Congress who care deeply about democracy in Burma. I'm going to