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MINNESOTA

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 17, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I am writing to express my concern about reports that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering closing its Region 5 office in Chicago and potentially shifting its workload to the Region 7 in Kansas City. Closing the Chicago office could threaten efforts to fight invasive carp, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and clean up Areas of Concern throughout the Great Lakes region.

The Region 5 office, which includes Minnesota, plays a critical role in protecting our environment and making sure we have clean air and water. It oversees the implementation of numerous programs and grants, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has a proven track record of cleaning up toxic substances and Areas of Concern like the St. Louis River outside Duluth, fighting invasive species like carp, addressing nonpoint source pollution in the form of harmful algal blooms, and restoring habitat for fish and wildlife.

The Great Lakes provide drinking water for 40 million people, contribute \$10 billion in tourism each year, and support hundreds of thousands of jobs across the region. Numerous sectors rely on the Great Lakes for commerce, tourism, and recreation. As a vice-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force one of my top priorities is ensuring that our lakes are healthy and productive for generations to come.

That is why I urge you to ensure that the EPA Region 5 office in Chicago remains open and continues to fulfill its critical mission to the environment and communities across the Midwest.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate

