



**GREAT LAKES LIGHTHOUSE
KEEPERS ASSOCIATION
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Honorable Carl Levin,
United States Senator

On behalf of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, a registered 501(c)(3) association with membership throughout the nation, I am writing to support ***Senate Bill S715 - the National Lighthouse Stewardship Act of 2009*** as introduced by yourself and Senators Stabinow (MI), and Snowe (ME).

Since passage of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000, responsibility for many of our historic lighthouses has been successfully transferred from the Coast Guard to the public sector. While many lighthouses continue to serve as active aids to navigation, the cost of their restoration, preservation and ongoing maintenance is now being borne solely by local government entities and grass-roots nonprofit organizations with extremely limited economic resources. The funds this Act will make available are critical for the continued restoration and preservation efforts of these local entities.

However, the real power and benefit of this ***Senate Bill S715 - the National Lighthouse Stewardship Act of 2009*** is that virtually all awarded funds will be passed directly through to local businesses which will actually undertake the work, thereby serving as a real stimulus to the economies in the area in which the lighthouses are located. Further, with lighthouses serving as time-proven cultural tourism attractions, the continued restoration and opening of yet more of these historic structures to the public will serve to keep tourists and their dollars in these same areas for extended time periods for years to come.

For these reasons, our Association strongly supports the adoption of ***Senate Bill S715 - the National Lighthouse Stewardship Act of 2009***.

Respectfully submitted, this 2nd day of April, 2009.

Terry Pepper
Executive Director