



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE

RESOLUTION 4 -2006M

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States have worked cooperatively for nearly 100 years on border issues under the terms of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909;

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada entered into the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972 to further cooperative efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, significant progress has been made on protecting and restoring the lakes since the Agreement was reached;

WHEREAS, even with the progress over the past 30 years, the Great Lakes continue to face serious problems, including invasive species, habitat loss, toxic contamination, beach closures, combined and sanitary sewer overflows, and many others;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was amended in 1978 and 1987, but not since then;

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States are currently reviewing the effectiveness of the Agreement and considering possible changes to it in the future;

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada have include several parties in the review process, including the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative;

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States requested that the International Joint Commission conduct a series of public meetings to gain input on the Agreement and the review;

WHEREAS, many cities provided support to the IJC by making meeting space and other logistical support available for the meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will participate actively in the review;



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative emphasize especially that the next Agreement:

1. Include the St. Lawrence River along with the Great Lakes because it is part of the same ecosystem
2. Address the full ecosystem rather than just water quality
3. Include cities as full partners with the other orders of government

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Canada and the United States complete the review and revision process in a timely manner so that an updated Agreement is in place to further the protection and restoration process.

Signed this 23rd day of June, 2006

David Miller, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative