



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE

RESOLUTION 5-2006M

INVASIVE SPECIES

WHEREAS, over 180 aquatic invasive species have already caused damage and are continuing to cause damage to the waters in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem, harming the ecological integrity, biological diversity and economic health of the bi-national Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region;

WHEREAS, new and damaging aquatic invasive species are being introduced throughout the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem at the rate of over one per year;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem is not alone in facing damage and threats from aquatic invasive species as waters throughout the United States face the same or similar damage and threats from aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, local governments can and have taken steps towards prohibiting and penalizing the release of aquatic invasive species in the waters of their communities, but local governments do not have the adequate authority, jurisdiction or resources to effectively control and prevent aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, many organizations, state and local governments, and businesses in the U.S. agree that the nation's waters and shoreline communities would substantially benefit from a comprehensive, well-funded federal approach to help stop the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, many organizations, state and local governments, and businesses in the U.S. agree there is a particular need for nationally standardized methods for early detection of aquatic invasive species, standardized procedures for rapidly responding to aquatic invasive species once discovered, effective regulation of ballast water and substantial increases in funding to prevent and control aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, although there has been strong support in recent years from within and outside of the U.S. Congress for federal aquatic invasive species legislation, and in particular for the proposed "National Aquatic Invasive Species Act", such legislation has not yet advanced;



WHEREAS, in the absence of federal aquatic invasive species legislation in the U.S., some state governments are now moving forward to enact their own state laws and regulations to control such species;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly supports state efforts to prevent and control invasive species, but the existence of different state laws and policies that are not necessarily similar or coordinated is not the most effective or the most efficient approach to prevention and control of aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes that aquatic invasive species issues are urgent and that time is of the essence with respect to protecting the Great Lakes and other U.S. waters from their harmful ecological and economic consequences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. Congress to promptly enact the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005, or similar invasive species legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work jointly as a coalition, and work separately with their respective members of U.S. Congress, to actively encourage the U.S. Congress through letters, meetings, and other opportunities to promptly enact the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005 or similar invasive species legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will continue to urge the U.S. and Canadian governments to provide maximum funding for existing aquatic invasive species control and prevention programs, even in the absence of new legislation.

Signed this 23rd day of June, 2006

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