



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 15 - 2007M**

**WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7209 of the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act* of December 17, 2004 calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop and implement a plan to require a passport or other document or combination of documents deemed to be sufficient to denote identity and citizenship for all travel into the United States by U.S. citizens and categories of individuals for whom documentation requirements have previously been waived; and

**WHEREAS**, securing land, air and sea ports-of-entry is absolutely critical; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada and the United States have unique relationship characterized by the world's longest undefended border; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 300,000 people from both countries cross the border every day to work, shop, and visit family and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, cross-border communities of Buffalo-Niagara and Detroit-Windsor are tightly knit both socially and economically and residents shop, attend school or worship, and events on both sides of the border; and

**WHEREAS**, only 23% of U.S. citizens and 40 % of Canadians hold passports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) will require all Canadian and United States citizens to have a passport to enter the United States by June 1, 2009, or until three months after the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security have jointly certified that specific security criteria for travel documents have been established; and

**WHEREAS**, research has demonstrated that a passport requirement is likely to reduce travel demand between Canada and United States to the detriment of both countries' tourist industries and economies; and



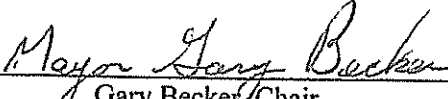
**WHEREAS**, the Department of Homeland Security is working with Washington State and with the Province of British Columbia to develop and carry out pilot testing of alternative secure identification options such as enhanced driver's licenses to determine the feasibility of enhancing existing forms of identification as valid border-crossing documents under the WHTI; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative advise the Governments of Canada and the United States that it is deeply concerned about the risk to the economic health of communities in both the United States and Canada associated with the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative request the Government of the United States to work with border cities and border states, in particular the States of Michigan and New York, and with Canada to develop solutions related to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative that provide for a secure border while facilitating trade and travel; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are convinced that: transparent Canada-United States consultations on WHTI implementation are needed; it is necessary to consider commonly held documents as alternatives to a passport, for example, drivers' licenses; more information on the economic impact of WHTI is needed; the United States and Canada need to develop a comprehensive and well-planned communication, marketing and distribution plan to explain WHTI requirements.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007

  
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Gary Becker, Chair  
Mayor of Racine  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative