

RESOLUTION # 1

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE  
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT  
PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

PRESENTED BY:

Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago  
Mayor David Miller, Toronto  
Mayor Gary Becker, Racine  
Mayor Herb Bergson, Duluth  
Mayor Timothy Rigby, St. Catharines  
Mayor Jerry Irby, Marquette  
Mayor Scott King, Gary  
Mayor Terry Geddes, Collingwood  
Mayor John Piskura, Sheffield Lake

**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; and

**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; and

**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 and Canada face the same or similar damage and threats from aquatic invasive species; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments can and have taken steps aimed at 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 effective control and prevent aquatic invasive species; and

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

**WHEREAS**, many organizations, state and local governments, and businesses in the U.S. and Canada agree that 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; and

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

**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; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes that issues related to aquatic invasive species are urgent and that time is of the essence with respect to protecting the Great Lakes and other U.S. and Canadian 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; and

**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; and

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourage implementation of the *Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada* and its associated *Canadian Action Plan to Address the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species*.

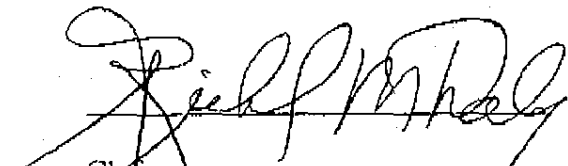
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourage opportunities for collaboration between governments, including

municipalities, and stakeholders on priority issues in implementing the Strategy and the Action Plan for AIS.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourage discussions between Canada and the U.S. National Invasive Species Council to identify shared priorities to strengthen measures to prevent AIS and other invaders.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Parliament enact \$85 million over five years for an Invasive Alien Species Strategy called for in the Canadian Federal Budget 2005 that will focus on preventative measures for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, including an incremental \$2 million per year over the next five years for the Sea Lamprey Control Program to control the presence of those invasive alien species in the Great Lakes.

Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2005, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.



Chairman  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities  
Initiative



Vice Chairman  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities  
Initiative