

RESOLUTION # 2
GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

REDUCING COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS

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, one of the most pressing and most serious issues facing the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region today is combined sewer overflows whereby raw sewage is dumped into waterways during significant storm events; and

WHEREAS, combined sewer overflows may contribute to a range of problems in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, including beach closures, risks to public health, water quality degradation and increased water treatment costs, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that more than 150 municipalities or sewer districts with combined sewer systems operate on the Great Lakes or on waterways tributary to the Great Lakes, all of which are subject to overflows during significant storm events; and

WHEREAS, there is a well-recognized need for substantial federal investment in water infrastructure upgrades to improve wastewater and storm water systems so as to help reduce the possibility of future combined sewer overflows during significant storm events; and

WHEREAS, despite the problems caused by combined sewer overflows and the recognized need for infrastructure upgrades to help address this issue, next year's proposed Federal budget in the United States would reduce funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund by \$600 million nationally and by approximately \$200 million in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the proposed federal funding cuts, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a federal policy that would allow for "blending" of wastewater during significant storm events, whereby the release of partially treated and partially untreated wastewater into waterways would be permitted under federal law; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns around the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence have been working to develop innovative, alternative methods for managing storm water, including green infrastructure alternatives such as roof gardens, rain gardens, permeable paving surfaces, reuse of storm water, and water efficient site design, in an effort to reduce the amount of water going into the sewer

system, supplement traditional infrastructure, and help reduce the occurrences or volume of combined sewer overflows;

WHEREAS, cities and towns around the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence are very concerned that the proposed federal funding cuts for wastewater infrastructure upgrades and the proposed "blending" policy will serve to undermine ongoing efforts to improve water quality and to prevent future overflows during significant storm events; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. Congress to fund the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at \$1.35 billion for federal fiscal year 2006, and urges the U.S. Congress to increase the authorization for the fund over and above \$1.35 billion for future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to remain committed to the principles of the Clean Water Act by not relaxing discharge standards that would allow "blending" and release of partially treated wastewater into our waterways, and the Initiative will take actions and support efforts to encourage the USEPA to so act; and

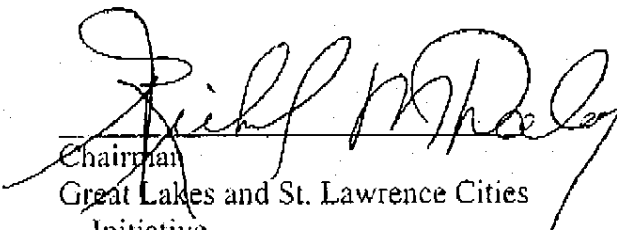
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. Congress to provide federal funding to help cities implement alternative storm water management techniques that help reduce pressure on combined sewer systems and therefore mitigate the chances for combined sewer overflows; and

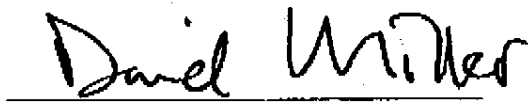
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the cities and towns of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region to explore and share best management practices for addressing storm water management and will work during the upcoming year to ensure that such actions occur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the efforts by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in developing a Canada-wide strategy for municipal wastewater management by November 2006.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages funding in support of environmentally sustainable infrastructure projects through the New Deal for Cities and federal government funding to municipal infrastructure renewal through Infrastructure Canada.

Signed this 26th 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