

RESOLUTION # 4

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

SWIMMING BANS

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, annually over 60 million people visit more than 1,000 beaches, 98 state parks, 39 provincial parks, and 12 national parks on the United States and Canadian Great Lakes shores; and

WHEREAS, lakefront tourism is critical to local and regional economies all around the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials are responsible for providing recreational opportunities and protecting public health of residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, the number of incidents of Great Lakes swimming bans due to high bacteria levels has been increasing dramatically; and

WHEREAS, the sources of bacteria that cause swimming bans are numerous, discreet, and often unknown; and

WHEREAS, the current approved method for testing bacteria does not provide results in a timely manner (thus limiting the actual public health protection benefit of beach testing) and is antiquated with respect to the capacity of new technology; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable debate and ongoing research into the correlation between the current recommended standard for issuing a swimming ban and public health risk; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to explore new indicators, beyond e. coli and fecal coliform, that may more accurately detect the presence of harmful bacteria in waterways, and thus more effectively protect public health.

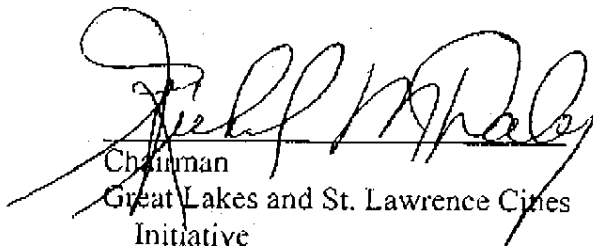
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Federal governments of the U.S. and Canada to assist local, state and provincial governments in determining the sources of bacteria in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its ongoing effort to investigate the correlation between the level of e.coli bacteria in the water and incidences of illness and encourages EPA to act swiftly to conclude that investigation. This study will help determine if the current standard and indicators used for banning swimming at beaches accurately reflects the risk to the public; and

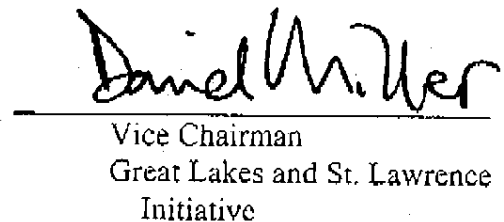
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Federal governments of the U.S. and Canada to approve rapid testing technology in order to provide information about the status of swimming bans in a more timely manner that is consistent with protecting public health; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages all local leaders to continue to evaluate innovative approaches to beach management and share this information among other officials at all levels of government.

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
Initiative