RESOLUTION # 8

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

DEVILS LAKE DIVERSION

PRESENTED BY: Mayor Timothy Rigby, St. Catharines
SECONDED BY: Mayor David Miller, Toronto
Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago
Mayor Eddie Frances, Windsor

WHEREAS, the informed use, management and protection of water resources is a high
priority to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, and

WHEREAS, the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and the International Joint Commission
have guided the United States and Canada in the management of shared waters for nearly
a century; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota is constructing, without an environmental
assessment and without any safeguards, a Devils Lake outlet that would divert water from
Devils Lake into the Sheyenne River and ultimately into Canadian waters; and

WHEREAS, many people in the United States and Canada have expressed concern with
the impact of the Devils Lake outlet on downstream waters including prospective water
pollution and the transfer of invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative believes that an
understanding of the environmental and economic implications of any trans boundary
diversion is essential; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is concerned that the
process to date has not respected the authority of the Boundary Waters Treaty and
consequently, has threatened the stature of the Boundary Waters Treaty and the
International Joint Commission, sets a bad precedent for dealing with similar issues on
the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and compromises U.S.-Canada relations; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative believes that it is
essential that the environmental and economic impacts of the Devils Lake project be
conducted in the spirit of binational cooperation and in thorough and objective manner by
a credible party; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urge the U.S. Secretary of State and the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs to refer the Devils Lake outlet matter to the International Joint Commission to undertake a credible and objective assessment of the environmental impacts of this transboundary water diversion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will write to and urge the U.S. Secretary of State and to ensure that the Devils Lake outlet does not operate until the International Joint Commission has completed its assessment and governments in Canada and the United States have had an opportunity to review their recommendations.

Signed this 26th day of May, 2005, in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Richard M. Daley, Chairman
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

David Miller, Vice Chairman
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative