



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

RESOLUTION 10 – 2007M

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN RESTORATION OF AREAS OF CONCERN AND
ZONES D'INTERVENTION PRIORITAIRE

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are resources of tremendous value to the people of the United States and Canada and add greatly to the economic well being and quality of life for the citizens who live there and the visitors who travel there;

WHEREAS, contamination from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic sources have caused a wide variety of problems and impairments to the resource over the years;

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada formally designated 43 Areas of Concern (AOC) with especially significant problems in the Great Lakes, and the governments of Canada and Québec also established 14 Zones d'intervention prioritaire (ZIP) along the St. Lawrence in need of special attention;

WHEREAS, to date, only three of the AOCs have been restored to the point of being removed from the list of contaminated areas in almost 20 years;

WHEREAS, these areas continue to present threats to human health and the environment, and are often viewed as a stigma for the cities and surrounding communities in the vicinity;

WHEREAS, federal, state, and provincial authorities have the primary responsibility for the remediation and restoration work that needs to be done in these contaminated areas under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Canada Ontario Agreement, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and the St. Lawrence Plan;

WHEREAS, some local governments may be in a position to help accelerate the cleanup of these areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that cities and municipalities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative located in or near these AOCs and ZIPs review and evaluate the issues present and actions needed to determine whether there are




steps that could be taken at the local level to help accelerate the remediation and restoration process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, where cities and municipalities determine that local involvement is appropriate and could serve to advance the cleanup process, mayors and their staff look for opportunities to lead and participate in projects to help restore the areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cities and municipalities look for opportunities to partner with tribes and first nations in these remediation and restoration efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cities and municipalities call on the federal, state, and provincial authorities to exert new efforts in these areas to accelerate the cleanup process, and that Congress, the Canadian Parliament, state legislatures, and provincial parliaments appropriate the necessary funding to allow for this to proceed.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative