



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

RESOLUTION 6 -2007M

THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES
COMPACT AND THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN
SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin are precious public natural resources shared and held in trust by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are the world's largest source of surface freshwater and are essential to the quality of life and economic vitality of the cities, villages, townships, and counties along the shores and in the surrounding watershed;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence support countless recreational, commercial, tourism, and cultural activities for basin residents and visitors; drive economic development and improve the economic value of shoreline communities; support critical aquatic and coastal ecosystems; provide fresh drinking water for millions of people; and support agricultural and industrial activities;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent about twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and drinking water for more than 40 million people throughout the Great Lakes basin;

WHEREAS, despite their size, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are finite and vulnerable to depletion and degradation with only one percent of the water in the Great Lakes being recharged each year;

WHEREAS, future diversions and consumptive uses of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin water resources have the potential to significantly impact the environment, economy and welfare of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the renewable but finite Waters of the Basin for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all their citizens, including generations yet to come. The most effective means of protecting, conserving, restoring, improving and managing the Basin Waters is through the joint pursuit of unified and cooperative principles, policies and programs mutually agreed upon, enacted and adhered to by all of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces;



WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors have endorsed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers have signed Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement—agreements to conserve, protect and improve the Great Lakes and its sustaining waters—but the Compact is not binding until ratified by each Great Lakes state legislature and consented to by the US Congress;

WHEREAS, the states of Minnesota and Illinois have ratified the Compact and the Province of Ontario has enacted laws to implement the Agreement while the Province of Québec has approved the Agreement;

WHEREAS, the other states are at various stages of considering the Compact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls upon the states of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to promptly ratify the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact so that it may become enforceable law in the Great Lakes states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to give its consent to the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact so that it may become a binding interstate compact on the Great Lakes states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the government of Québec to adopt the policies and programs mutually agreed upon with the Great Lakes states and Ontario in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution will be sent to: the Council of Great Lakes Governors, each of the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, legislative leaders in each Great Lakes state legislature, and the Great Lakes Delegation in the United States Congress.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007

Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative