WHEREAS, the Great Lakes, including Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River are national and international treasures vital to the region; and

WHEREAS, these treasures are shared common resources between the citizens of Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the premier freshwater system in the world, containing almost twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and providing drinking water to over thirty-five million Canadian and United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are also vital to the region in terms of industry, recreation, and their value as natural habitats; and

WHEREAS, only one percent of this resource is renewed each year; and

WHEREAS, improper water management could cause irreversible damage to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, water is needlessly wasted through the use of inefficient appliances throughout the Great Lake and St. Lawrence River Basin; and

WHEREAS, climate change is accelerating the year-round evaporation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence surface waters; and

WHEREAS, water treatment and distribution is one of the highest energy consumption activities within municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members recognize the need to conserve water actively and use it efficiently and agree that growth, conservation, and efficiency can occur simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative launched the Water Conservation Framework in 2007 which urges cities to work towards achieving a fifteen percent reduction below year 2000 water consumption levels by the year 2015 and encourages more cities to implement water conservation programs by fostering a best practices network; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the Governors and Premiers of the eight Great Lakes states and two provinces for their work in developing the
regional water conservation and efficiency objectives called for in Article 304(1) of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and looks forward the development of focused, harmonized and aggressive water conservation objectives by the Great Lakes States and the two Canadian Provinces.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members reiterate the need for cities to continue leading water conservation and efficiency efforts for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and to lead by example with respect to water conservation, and encourages further municipal involvement in the GLSLCI Water Conservation Framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to promote its Water Conservation Framework amongst its members and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities through promotional materials and presentations to municipal councils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages municipalities to include water conservation and efficiency measures in their energy efficiency and climate change plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages other orders of government to work closely with municipalities to explore how they can introduce measures that would directly help municipalities reach their water conservation goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on federal and state and provincial governments in Canada and the United States to adopt measures to ban the sale of water-inefficient toilets and other water inefficient household appliances, as well as to require the installation of water efficient household appliances in new and retro-fitted residential dwellings.

Signed this 17th day of July, 2008

Lynn Peterson, Chair
Mayor of Thunder Bay
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative