



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

**RESOLUTION 14 – 2008M**

**DREDGING SMALL HARBORS**

**WHEREAS**, there are 87 federally authorized small harbors on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes basin and many within the Province of Ontario and along the St. Lawrence River in the Province of Quebec; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S., the federal government is responsible for maintaining boater access to these harbors through adequate dredging and maintenance of navigation infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as maintenance); and

**WHEREAS**, small harbors perform other valuable functions such as ports of refuge during inclement weather, ports for Coast Guard rescue stations, ports for law enforcement, ports for commercial fleets, ports for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence research vessels and ferry terminals; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the small harbors require regular maintenance because of natural sedimentation, low water levels, storm events, and littoral drift, among other factors; and


**WHEREAS**, in the U.S., longstanding federal policy prevents the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from allocating funds for the maintenance of small harbors in its operation and maintenance budget for the Great Lakes, thus forcing these harbors to seek Congressional assistance or “earmarks” to secure funds for maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, this inefficient, inequitable system has resulted in maintenance backlogs that have hindered, or in some cases totally blocked, access to small harbors, causing significant economic loss and increased risk to human health and safety.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for a more equitable, sustainable, needs-based system in the U.S. and Canada to allocate funds for adequate maintenance of small Great Lakes and St. Lawrence harbors and supports similar efforts around the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008

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