



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

RESOLUTION 6 – 2008M

NATIONAL CLEAN WATER TRUST FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are the largest surface freshwater formation in the world serving the United States and Canada with water for aquatic life, drinking water, recreation and other vital uses; and

WHEREAS, the environmental health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is a major element of efforts to maintain and sustain vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has long recognized that the Great Lakes are essential to the continued vitality of the cities, townships, villages and counties along the shores and in the tributary watersheds, the environment and the economy of the region and the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure provide vital public health, environmental benefits, and economic benefits to Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities and contribute to the national economy; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and provincial requirements govern the provision of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure services by local governments; and

WHEREAS, wastewater and stormwater facilities are vital to protecting source drinking waters; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and provincial requirements continue to increase by further controlling wastewater system overflows, removal of ammonia toxicity, control of excessive nutrients, and removal of exotic pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA's 2000 *Progress in Water Quality Report* found that if existing infrastructure is not rehabilitated and further improvements not made to remove conventional pollutants, the U.S. could experience by 2016 levels of water body impairments that existed prior to the achievement of secondary wastewater treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Water Infrastructure Network, the U.S. EPA and other government agencies have reported that the cost of presently known water and wastewater infrastructure construction needs range between \$300 billion and \$550 billion; and

WHEREAS, similar studies in Canada have show multi-billion dollar deficits in funding for wastewater infrastructure; and



WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence local governments and their wastewater utilities have significantly increased wastewater user rates in past decades and have widely adopted methods of improving planning, construction, capacity, management, operation and maintenance of wastewater infrastructure at great cost; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has reported that of those surveyed “Roughly 75 percent of treatment plants providing drinking water and cleaning wastewater (sewage) employ comprehensive or partial asset management practices”; and

WHEREAS, a recent study completed by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative shows that local governments in the U.S. and Canada on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are investing over \$15 billion annually to protect and restore the resource, a majority of the funding going to wastewater and stormwater management; and

WHEREAS, the great majority of funds for meeting local and national clean water needs will continue to be provided by local governments, but new sources of public capital from the national economy are needed to assist in meeting the gap in capital expenditures to further control pollutants and replace aging infrastructure emblematic of the national importance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and clean water; and

WHEREAS, leadership from the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and other Members of Congress have requested the Government Accountability Office to review and report on options for dedicated revenue to finance a National Clean Water Trust Fund and have indicated an intent to introduce such legislation for consideration by Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports significantly increased United States Federal Government funding for clean water and urges Congress to establish a dedicated revenue source to help close the clean water funding gap. This federal funding will be used to establish a matching grants program, continue the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, and for other assistance to advance the achievement of clean water goals at the local, statewide and national levels and for the Great Lakes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Canadian government to establish a dedicated funding program for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence clean water to help overcome the legacy infrastructure deficit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities initiative urges state and provincial governments to establish dedicated sources of funding for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence clean water to help close the current funding gap; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. and Canadian governments, the state and provincial governments, to at least match the \$15 billion invested by local governments annually in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Signed this 17th day of July, 2008

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