



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

RESOLUTION 9 – 2008M

SHORT SEA SHIPPING

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence have served the United States and Canada as a major route for shipping goods and materials in and out of both countries for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence have the capacity to handle significantly more commercial shipping than currently uses the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, continuing congestion on highways and train routes, especially at border crossings, is detrimental from an energy and economic standpoint; and

WHEREAS, moving goods and materials by ship is one of the most energy efficient means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the cost of energy, especially petroleum related products, continues to rise significantly; and

WHEREAS, the concept of short sea shipping, where goods and materials are shipped from one location within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to another, is utilized to a certain degree now, but has the potential for much expansion in the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada released the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway Study in 2007, which included a discussion on the potential for short sea shipping in the future; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of potential advantages in terms of reduced transport time, less energy consumption, and less congestion, but there are also potential impediments, including the need for harbor modifications, border security, and the Harbor Maintenance Tax; and

WHEREAS, shipping is important to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region as a whole, and to a number of its port cities specifically.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly encourages the governments of Canada and the United States to do further study as to the feasibility of short sea shipping in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the governments of Canada and the United States to examine the full range of advantages and disadvantages of short sea shipping from an economic, environmental, energy, and other key standpoints in any such study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the governments of Canada and the United States to fully engage the local governments, port authorities, states, provinces, and other key stakeholders in any such study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will formulate a working group to examine short sea shipping from the above perspectives that will include all forms of transportation in a multi-modal approach and will include a focus on preventing the further invasion of aquatic invasive species.

Signed this 17th day of July, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Peterson', is written over a horizontal line.

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