



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

**RESOLUTION 10 – 2009M**

**BALLAST WATER STANDARDS**

**Submitted by Superior, Thunder Bay, and Duluth**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System is bordered by eight states and two Canadian provinces; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognize the importance of controlling the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species by requiring all ships entering United States and Canadian ports to treat ballast water; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative support a strong federal approach on the part of both governments to control the introduction of aquatic nuisance species as opposed to the patchwork of state regulation that is emerging in the United States; and

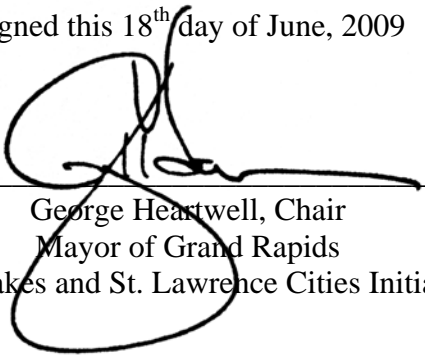
**WHEREAS**, the conflicting state ballast water statutes in the United States are creating a chaotic regulatory environment that will soon cripple the shipping industry, yet fail to solve the problem.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on the federal governments of Canada and the United States to establish a federal ballast water standard that is uniform for all states and provinces; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that both governments:

- 1) create a uniform, federal regulatory program requiring the treatment of ships' ballast water; and
- 2) establish a ballast water treatment (BWT) standard; and
- 3) set deadlines for no later than 2016 by which time vessel owners have to install treatment systems and meet discharge standards; and
- 4) authorize and fund federal research programs focused on BWT technology; and
- 5) establish an orderly technology verification and approval system.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

  
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George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative