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 18th day of June, 2009

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