



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

RESOLUTION 11 – 2009M

GREAT SHIPS INITIATIVE

Submitted by Superior, Duluth, and Thunder Bay

WHEREAS, mayors of the Great Lakes understand that the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes has negatively impacted the resource; and

WHEREAS, they further understand that the need for a solution to the problem of aquatic invasive species is essential; and

WHEREAS, the Great Ships Initiative was established in 2006 as an innovative collaboration between industry, academia, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations whose objective is to end the problem of ship-mediated invasive species in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System; and

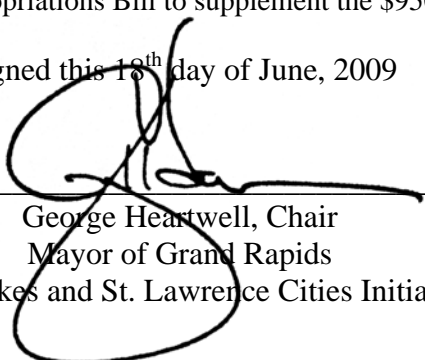
WHEREAS this effort includes independent research and demonstration of environmental technology, financial incentives and consistent basin-wide harbor monitoring and

WHEREAS, the near-term objective of the Great Ships Initiative is to significantly accelerate research, development and implementation of effective ballast treatment systems for ships that visit the Great Lakes from overseas. To that end, the Great Ships Initiative has established research capabilities at three scales—bench, land-based, and shipboard. Each scale is dedicated to addressing specific evaluation objectives, with protocols as consistent with IMO and federal requirements as practicable; and

WHEREAS, the project's lab space and testing center is located in the Duluth-Superior harbor and is jointly managed by the University of Wisconsin-Superior and the Northeast-Midwest Institute of Washington, D.C. with substantial technical expertise from the University of Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges Congress to provide \$1 million to the Great Ships Initiative in the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill to supplement the \$950,000 provided as part of the 2009 federal budget.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009



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