



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

**RESOLUTION 13 – 2009M**

**IMPROVEMENTS TO NAVIGATION ON THE GREAT LAKES**

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

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes mayors recognize that ports are gateways to world trade and critical components in North America's economic recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens of the United States, Canada and the world rely on ports in this region to move cargo efficiently in and out of North America; and

**WHEREAS**, 40% of the industrial capacity of the United States and 60% of the Canadian capacity is centered in the Great Lakes region; and

**WHEREAS**, shippers using the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System save \$3.6 billion annually in transportation costs, and

**WHEREAS**, investing in navigational improvements along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway will both create jobs and pay dividends well into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, there are two critical improvements to navigation on the Great Lakes that require the immediate attention of the United States government;

**WHEREAS**, the first improvement is another Poe-sized lock because the existing, aging locks, which connect Lake Superior to the lower four Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, handle more than 80 million tons of iron ore, coal, grain and other cargos each year and are vulnerable to failure; and

**WHEREAS**, the second improvement is more dredging because harbors choked with sand or silt are unusable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with construction of a new, large lock on the St. Mary's River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan as directed by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to provide adequate funding to enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address a backlog of dredging work in shipping lanes of deep-draft ports, lakes, channels and rivers of the Great Lakes Basin – projects that now exceed \$200 million.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

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