



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

RESOLUTION 17– 2009M

SUPPORT OF MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION
Submitted by City of Grand Rapids

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River support a vibrant and economically important region for the United States, Canada, and the world for transportation, fishing, recreation, agriculture and manufacturing, all requiring energy in various forms; and

WHEREAS, individual communities and governments outside the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are sometimes competitive and self-motivated during financially stressing times, which potentially cause poor decisions that can jeopardize the precious natural resources, habitats, and lands found within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence watersheds and the living conditions of millions; and

WHEREAS, good partnerships, cooperation, and community collaboration between Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative member cities have demonstrated that powerful and vocal positions can be created that can aid federal, state, and provincial agencies, government officials and other community stakeholders in accomplishing more and greater work in the protection and preservation of resources, capital, and livelihoods around the basin more than singular communities and governments can; and

WHEREAS, the bi-national partnership between the United States and Canada is a crucial component of efforts to protect the health of the resource, continue trade and economic development, and maintain the quality of life for residents of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the long-term value of these partnerships could not be more critical considering the worth of these priceless natural resources and their ability to daily generate \$1.5 billion dollars of revenue from trade and tourism between communities within the two nations, dependent on fast and efficient movement of goods and services that will provide continued economic growth of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence regional economies; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative intends to continue being recognized in Washington and Ottawa as well as the state and provincial capitals as the voice of millions of people living in local communities in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence watersheds, armed with accurate, sensible, scientific, and unbiased information to help decision-makers develop informed choices vital to the world's future.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members support continued collaboration and partnerships within the organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative member cities will continue to encourage neighboring communities to join in conversations with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative as a means of promoting membership and collaboration with an even larger voice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourage the federal governments of the United States and Canada to continue the bi-national collaboration efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on those governments to extend that spirit of cooperation to develop, in cooperation with local government, responsible border policies to allow for the safe, sensible, and efficient passage of goods and people.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009

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