



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

**RESOLUTION 1 – 2010M**

**Harbor Maintenance Tax**  
**Submitted by the Cities of Superior and Duluth**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes mayors collectively address common issues related to regional development that promote waterborne commerce and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities, states/provinces, and nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased use of maritime transportation will reduce environmental pressures and improve the quality of air and water, while at the same time reducing the social and economic pressures caused by landside traffic and congestion; and

**WHEREAS**, short sea shipping is a form of maritime transportation that does not transit an ocean and utilizes inland and coastal waterways to move commercial freight; and

**WHEREAS**, short sea shipping services provide an environmentally friendly mode of transportation for goods moving port-to-port along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway - ensuring a greatly reduced carbon footprint; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes mayors see short sea shipping as both a viable and desirable mode of regional transportation that will stimulate jobs in the marine sector; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) is a U.S. federal tax imposed on shippers based on the value of goods being shipped to or from U.S. ports; and

**WHEREAS**, the HMT creates a disincentive for shippers to transport high-value freight by water and consequently encourages greater highway congestion; and

**WHEREAS**, shippers have identified the HMT as a primary impediment to the development of new short sea shipping services; and

**WHEREAS**, providing a narrow exemption from the HMT for non-bulk commercial cargo would encourage the movement of freight from congested highways and border crossings to marine alternatives.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to eliminate the Harbor Maintenance Tax on non-bulk commercial cargo to encourage the development of short sea shipping services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges Congress to enact H.R. 3486, the Short Sea Shipping Act of 2009.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Lapointe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

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Denis Lapointe, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield