WHEREAS, the maritime industry is adopting voluntarily common objectives to improve its environmental performance; and

WHEREAS, the constituents of the maritime industry unite with the aim of applying a voluntary environmental policy on the whole Great Lakes and the St-Lawrence River corridor; and

WHEREAS, Green marine is an initiative of associations representing the maritime industry of Canada and the United States, including American Great Lakes Ports Association, St-Lawrence Shipowners Association, Association of Canadian Port Authorities, Canadian Shipowners Association, Chamber of Marine commerce, Shipping Federation of Canada, Ontario Marine Transportation Forum, St-Lawrence Economic Development Council (Sodes), and United States Great Lakes Shipping Association; and

WHEREAS, the main goals of Green Marine are to 1). strengthen environmental performance through a process of continuous improvement; 2). build strong relations with Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Waterway stakeholders; and 3). heighten understanding of the industry’s activities and environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, the maritime industry recognizes the environmental impacts linked with its activities, and it takes action by mobilizing around seven major environmental issues: Aquatic invasive species; Pollutant air emissions: sulphur oxides (SOx) and nitrogen oxides (NOx); Greenhouse gases (GHGs); Cargo residues; Oily water; Conflicts of use in ports and terminals (noise, dust, odors and light); and Environmental leadership; and

WHEREAS, every year the participants of Green Marine measure their environmental performance according to the criteria established for each of the issues which apply to them. The collective results, and for each of the participants, are then communicated with the general public in an annual report produced by Green Marine; and

WHEREAS, Green Marine aims at concrete and measurable improvement of the environmental performance of the maritime industry of the Saint Lawrence and the Great
Lakes. To meet this objective, Green Marine adopted a set of guiding principles. In addition to respecting laws and applicable regulations, every company that joins Green Marine agrees to: 1). demonstrate corporate leadership in the search for best environmental practices in accordance with a sustainable development approach; 2). carry out its activities in a responsible manner with a view to minimizing its environmental impacts; 3). aim for continuous improvement of its environmental performance; 4). develop and promote voluntary protection measures; 5). integrate sustainable development practices that are technically and economically achievable; 6). collaborate with governments and citizen groups in the progressive implementation of the action plans arising from this program; and 7). actively participate in an integrated management approach for the St. Lawrence which includes collaboration with all the other actors at the local, regional, national and international levels; and

WHEREAS, Green Marine has 44 members including domestic and foreign shipowners, port authorities, stevedoring companies, terminal operators and shippers; and

WHEREAS, Green Marine has 28 supporters which endorse the environmental program either symbolically or through the provision of services, including: governments; municipalities; communities; and environment groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the implementation of Green Marine’s environmental program and shows its support for this initiative of sustainable development undertaken by the maritime industry by becoming a Supporter of Green Marine.

Signed this 16th day of June, 2011

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Brian McMullan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of St. Catharines