



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

RESOLUTION 07 – 2014M

FOSSIL ENERGY TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world, providing drinking water to over 40 million people and serving as the economic base for much of Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin is a complex and fragile ecosystem, encompassing a wide range of human and natural habitat and activities; and

WHEREAS, the rapid increase in volume of oil and gas being transported from Western producing regions across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin towards Eastern refineries and markets has in recent years raised many questions and concerns, notably in the light of recent events in the Kalamazoo River, Michigan, in Casselton, North Dakota, in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, in Lynchburg, Virginia, and in Lac-Mégantic, Québec; and

WHEREAS, as the volume and nature of the conveyed oil change, there is greater need for increased oversight and sophistication of safety measures, both for pipelines, rail and maritime transport; and

WHEREAS, the lax following of regulations or the lack of regulations with respect to oil and gas transportation have likely contributed to the accidents that have occurred; and

WHEREAS, pipelines, rail and maritime transportation modes for the transportation of fossil energies are complementary, binational and largely integrated at the North American scale; and

WHEREAS, given the current uncertainties about the public safety and environmental risks to water, air and soil as well as potential negative financial impacts on municipalities with each of these transportation modes, there is a greater need for increased safeguards; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have both the duty and obligation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their residents.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on state, provincial and federal governments to provide comprehensive and responsible management of the transportation of fossil energies, through effective legislation and regulations that will ensure the safety of residents and the protection of the environment, as well as to respect the role and authority of municipalities, including their capacity to review proposed regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recommends additional safety measures, notably, all modes of transportation of fossil energies be equipped with double walled containment, including pipelines, ships, barges, tank cars, and tank trucks; more specifically, for pipelines: increased monitoring and prevention actions, including periodic hydrostatic testing, sufficient number of safety valves near populated areas and major waterways including state of the art leak detection technology and double-walled pipe or other containment systems at all water crossings; for rail transport: reinforced and public routing protocols, speed restrictions of trains travelling through populated areas and other sensitive zones, increased and improved track, mechanical and other rail safety inspections, retrofitting or removal of DOT-111 tank cars, and for maritime transport: the review of current spill preparedness, response capacity and intervention timeframes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative requests improved emergency responder capabilities and training to address spills and other incidents, as well as open and transparent communication between local governments and industry actors; including live, on-demand, detailed information about oil shipments and an obligation of full and quick disclosure of any spill or incident through a bi-national web portal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for an environmental assessment of potential impacts on water resources, notably in the case of the transportation of dilbit and other unconventional types of oil; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, considering the North American integration of fossil energy transport modes, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recommend that increased harmonization of such legislation and regulations between Canada and the U.S. be pursued; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recommends to both federal governments increased environmental standards in trade agreements such as NAFTA's Section 6 (Energy and Petrochemicals), by adding a safety annex which would bind the export right of fossil energy producers and conveyors with the respect of regulations and the meeting of safety standards both sides of the border, and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative asks for the creation of mitigation and compensation funds, financed by fees paid by oil transportation industries and/or oil producers that would offer complete remediation and financial compensation to municipalities and those affected on the ground in the event of a spill, fire or other significant events.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith P. Hobbs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Keith Hobbs, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Thunder Bay