

**Statement of
Richard M. Daley
Mayor, City of Chicago
On behalf of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**

**Advancing the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Strategy
To Restore and Protect the Great Lakes**

**U.S. Senate
Environment and Public Works Committee
Thursday, March 16, 2006**

Good morning Chairman Inhofe, Chairman Voinovich, Ranking Member Jeffords, and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

My name is Richard M. Daley, and I am here today in my capacity as Mayor of Chicago, the largest city on the Great Lakes, and as Chairman of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, a coalition of eighty-five U.S. and Canadian mayors who represent cities and towns located along Great Lakes shorelines. A list of the Initiative's members is attached. Also attached is a letter from Toronto Mayor David Miller, Vice Chairman of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. On behalf of the Canadian mayors, Mayor Miller's letter supports my testimony today.

I created the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in 2002 to provide a forum for mayors to engage in a focused effort regarding the important work of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. The Initiative provides a bi-national entity for mayors to share best practices on protecting the Great Lakes and for mayors to become more involved in future Great Lakes policies and decision-making. Mayors are on the front lines of the Great Lakes, and are usually the first persons that citizens turn to when issues or concerns arise regarding the Great Lakes. While the Great Lakes seem vast and permanent, Great Lakes mayors are well aware that they are vulnerable to mismanagement. The Great Lakes are critical for our cities and town, and mayors know first-hand that they need to be protected.

I am pleased to be here today for this important Committee meeting, and I thank Chairman Inhofe and Chairman Voinovich for making this meeting possible. It is clear that the members of the EPW Committee recognize how important the Great Lakes are, not only to the Midwest, but also to the nation and the world.

Over the last year, many people in this room have been involved in a very important collaborative effort relating to the future of the Great Lakes.

First, many of us were present in Chicago when the Administration announced the Executive Order that created the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

Without leadership from the President, along with the active participation of many Great Lakes members of Congress, this Executive Order would not have been signed and the important work of the Regional Collaboration would not have proceeded. I thank the Administration and Congress for taking that important step.

Second, many people in this room were also present several months after the Executive Order was announced, when the Regional Collaboration had its official kickoff meeting, and many were present yet again this past December for the signing of the Regional Collaboration's consensus document, the "Great Lakes Strategy".

These major events offered promise and hope for the future of the Great Lakes. While they were heralded with great press attention and ceremony, there were other significant developments during the past year that received less attention.

At meetings in Rochester, New York; Toledo, Ohio; Traverse City, Michigan; and Duluth, Minnesota, hundreds of professionals joined together through the Collaboration to determine the best ways to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Approximately 1,500 people from dozens of cities and eight states rolled up their sleeves to participate in this process. They represented all levels of government, tribal nations, the private sector and the non-profit community, and they worked together in a non-partisan fashion.

As you can imagine, this was not a simple process. But the benefits of the Regional Collaboration cannot be overstated.

We now have a consensus strategy for Great Lakes actions and investments for years to come. Members of Congress can feel confident that this strategy represents the will of the Great Lakes community. For the first time, we are all on the same page with a common vision.

Thanks to these efforts, I am proud to report to you today that, as you requested, the priorities have been identified and the planning for Great Lakes protection has been completed. Today we are here today to discuss the next steps for implementing a long-term strategy for protecting and restoring the Great Lakes.

The Collaboration Strategy recognizes that repairing the damage to the Great Lakes cannot be done overnight. It is a long-term undertaking that will require large-scale investment from all levels of government and all stakeholders.

The Congress can be assured that we in local government will do our part. As Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, I'm proud of the investment, innovation and leadership that mayors in the U.S. and Canada are already bringing to Great Lakes issues. And more innovation is planned.

Great Lakes mayors have numerous responsibilities as a consequence of our shoreline locations. Among those responsibilities, we must supply clean drinking water to our regions, ensure safe and clean beaches, develop our shorelines responsibly, ensure proper sewage treatment, guard against excess runoff, provide safe water recreation opportunities, and be cognizant of our responsibility to conserve this important resource for generations to come.

The cities represented by our board of directors each spend an annual average of well over \$200 million for needs related to the Great Lakes, including drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, stormwater management, parks and open space, pollution prevention and shoreline protection.

In addition to financial investments, Great Lakes mayors are implementing innovative changes in water policy; stepping up efforts to conserve water; implementing sustainable building practices; protecting our shorelines from erosion; and passing ordinances to stop invasive species.

In Chicago, we are leading the way in innovative green building and green water infrastructure. We're ensuring that new city buildings are certified as green buildings, and encouraging private-sector developers and citizens to conserve water and use stormwater as a resource.

As Great Lakes Mayors, we are investing our own local resources in innovative approaches to protect the Great Lakes, and we are learning from each other about how to do even more.

In Chicago, we are building a stormwater tunnel that will collect clean rainwater from the roof of McCormick Place, the largest convention center in the nation, and return it to Lake Michigan instead of dumping it in the sewer system.

The tunnel is 12 feet in diameter, 3,300 feet long, and extends 150 feet under existing buildings and roadways. It will keep approximately 60 million gallons of water out of the sewer system every year. This will help conserve our Great Lakes water and reduce sewer overflows during large storms.

Racine, Wisconsin is doing some of the most innovative work in the country to come up with solutions for beach contamination.

Erie, Pennsylvania and Rochester, New York have made great strides in managing wet weather flows to reduce sewer overflows.

Gary, Indiana is transforming 21 miles of contaminated industrial property along Lake Michigan into publicly accessible parkland.

And Cleveland recently approved a Lakefront Plan to reconnect the city with Lake Erie.

These are just a few examples of Mayors' leadership in the efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

As I stated previously, long-term protection of the Great Lakes will require a sustained commitment at all levels, including the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada, state and local governments and tribal nations. It should be clear from today's hearing, that these groups have already demonstrated their willingness to make a commitment to move forward.

With respect to role of the federal government, on December 12, 2005, I joined Governor Jim Doyle of Wisconsin and Governor Bob Taft of Ohio in sending a letter to President Bush, outlining the first near-term actions toward making our Great Lakes vision a reality.

These actions were developed through the Regional Collaboration process and are supported by the Great Lakes community.

We asked the Administration to support \$300 million in new funding for programs to address a range of high priority issues, including sewer and water infrastructure, toxic pollutants, wetlands restoration, river restoration and brownfields programs.

Given this federal funding commitment, local and state governments would invest approximately \$140 million in matching funds. This would be in addition to the billions of dollars that local governments collectively spend annually on things like water infrastructure, shoreline and habitat improvements, pollution prevention, and stormwater management.

Investing in these near-term actions is an important down payment toward our long-term commitment to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration strategy, and will help address the most urgent priorities.

I would like to highlight several of these near-term actions that are essential for protection of the Great Lakes.

- The Army Corps of Engineers must be given authorization to build and operate two invasive-species barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, along with a \$6 million appropriation to carry out this work.

This is not a State of Illinois issue; it is a federal issue. The amount of resources needed to complete this work is a fraction of the costs associated with devastation to the Great Lakes that Asian carp will cause if they move into Lake Michigan.

- In order to stop the next invasive species from entering the Great Lakes and other important waterways, we need comprehensive invasive species legislation. I know many in Congress have been working on such legislation and I appreciate your work.
- USEPA's brownfields program should be increased by \$50 million and those funds should be targeted to shoreline communities around the country, so that waterfronts can be better protected.
- I also want to highlight the importance of fully funding the Clean Water State Revolving Loan program. Municipalities throughout the country are in dire need of funding to address aging water and wastewater infrastructure and this program is critical to that work.
- We also support the President's FY07 request for full funding of the Great Lakes Legacy Program to address toxic hot spots.
- Finally, we support the President's commitment to restore 200,000 acres of wetlands and ask that \$28.5 million be appropriated for this cause.

These actions, as well as others outlined in our December 12 letter to President Bush are important first steps that we, as a region and as a nation, need to take in the short term.

While these projects are under way, we also need to examine two key elements of Great Lakes protection and restoration: excessive bureaucracy and funding delivery.

There are more than 140 separate federal programs related to the Great Lakes. Too often these programs are not coordinated and lead to delays in implementation and inefficient use of resources.

The Asian carp barrier in Illinois is only one example. Despite being hailed as a victory for increased coordination among federal agencies, the barrier has continued to run into bureaucratic road bumps. It is hard to believe that we are still trying to figure out how to secure funds and determine who will operate it once it is finally constructed.

In order to better address these coordination issues, I am joining with the Great Lakes Governors in calling for Congress to codify the Federal Interagency Task

Force. This will help legitimize the Task Force and provide a mechanism for Congressional oversight.

Finally, we need to better target our scarce resources for Great Lakes restoration programs. We should to explore long-term strategies that give state and local governments more control over directing these resources, using the Collaboration Strategy as a guide.

I am well aware that there are competing priorities and limited resources. However, investments we make now will prevent the need for far larger expenditures in the future. We shouldn't let the potential costs deter us from making the plans necessary to preserve the source of 95 percent of the nation's fresh water and 20 percent of the earth's fresh water.

We have a lot of work ahead of us. We have already shown that the Great Lakes community is willing and able to work together to find solutions.

By continuing to work together we can turn this strategy into action.

This is a serious commitment, and one we must all make.

In closing, I would like to again thank Chairman Inhofe, Chairman Voinovich, Ranking Member Jeffords and the members of this committee for holding today's meeting to address the very important topic of the Great Lakes, and for providing me with the opportunity to share the views of Great Lakes mayors.

The Great Lakes mayors are strongly encouraged by the support of many members of Congress, and we look forward to working cooperatively with you and others in any way we can to advance progress on the Great Lakes.

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**Members of the
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
(85 members: 48 U.S.; 37 Canadian)**

<u>U.S. Cities/Towns</u>	<u>Canadian Cities/Towns</u>
Ashland, WI - Mayor Fred P. Schnook	Ajax, Ontario – Mayor Steve Parish
Bay City, MI - Mayor Robert J. Katt	Becancour, Quebec - Mayor Maurice Richard
Brownstown, MI - Supervisor Art Wright	Cobourg, Ontario - Mayor Peter Delanty
Buffalo, NY - Mayor Byron Brown	<i>Collingwood, Ontario - Mayor Terry Geddes</i>
<i>Chicago, IL - Mayor Richard M. Daley (Chair)</i>	Cornwall, Ontario - Mayor Phil Poirier
Cleveland, OH - Mayor Frank G. Jackson	Deschambault-Grondines, Quebec - Mayor Jacques Bouille
Detroit, MI - Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick	Dorval, Quebec - Mayor Edgar Rouleau
<i>Duluth, MN - Mayor Herb W. Bergson</i>	Durham, Ontario - Regional Chair Robert Anderson
East Chicago, IN - Mayor George Pabey	Fort Erie, Ontario - Mayor Wayne H. Redekop
<i>Erie, PA - Mayor Joseph Sinnott</i>	Goderich, Ontario - Mayor Deb J. Shewfelt
Evanston, IL - Mayor Lorraine H. Morton	Haldimand County, Ontario - Mayor Marie Trainer
Ferndale, MI - Mayor Robert Porter	Halton Region, Ontario - Regional Chair Joyce Savoline
Ferrysburg, MI - Mayor Ray Tejchma	Hamilton, Ontario - Mayor Larry Di Ianni
<i>Gary, IN - Mayor Scott L. King</i>	Kingston, Ontario - Mayor Harvey Rosen
Grand Marais, MN - Mayor Mark Sandbo	Marathon, Ontario - Mayor David Bell
<i>Grand Rapids, MI - Mayor George K. Heartwell</i>	<i>Montreal, Quebec - Mayor Gerald Tremblay</i>
Green Bay, WI - Mayor James Schmitt	Niagara on the Lake, Ontario - Mayor Gary Burroughs
Hammond, IN - Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr.	Oakville, Ontario - Mayor Ann Mulvale
Hancock, MI - Mayor Barry Givens	Oshawa, Ontario - Mayor John Gray
Highland Park, IL - Mayor Michael Belsky	<i>Parry Sound, Ontario - Mayor Ted Knight</i>
Mackinaw City, MI - Village President Robert R. Heilman	Port Colborne, Ontario - Mayor Ron Bodner
Manistee, MI - Mayor Robert Goodspeed	Prescott, Ontario - Mayor Robert Lawn
Manitowoc, WI - Mayor Kevin M. Crawford	<i>Quebec City, Quebec - Mayor Andree P. Boucher</i>
Marquette, MI - Mayor Tony Tollefson	<i>St. Catherines, Ontario - Mayor Timothy H. Rigby</i>
Michigan City, IN - Mayor Charles Oberlie	Sainte Catherine, Quebec - Mayor Jocelyne Bates
Milwaukee, WI - Mayor Tom Barrett	Saint Joseph-de-Sorel, Quebec - Mayor Olivier Gravel
Monroe, MI - Mayor Al Cappucilli	<i>Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec - Mayor Denis Lapointe</i>
Niagara Falls, NY - Mayor Vincenzo V. Anello	Saugeen Shores, Ontario - Mayor Mark Kraemer
Petoskey, MI - Mayor Dale E. Meyer	Sault St. Maire, Ontario - Mayor John Rowswell
Portage, IN - Mayor Douglas W. Olson	Sorel-Tracy, Quebec - Mayor Robert Marcel
Racine County, WI - County Executive Bill McReynolds	The Archipelago, Ontario - Mayor Peter Ketchum
<i>Racine, WI - Mayor Gary Becker</i>	Thunder Bay, Ontario - Mayor Lynn Peterson
<i>Rochester, NY - Mayor Robert Duffy</i>	<i>Toronto, Ontario - Mayor David Miller (Vice Chair)</i>
Rochester Hills, MI - Mayor Pat Somerville	Ville de Chateauguay, Quebec - Mayor Sergio Pavone
Royal Oak, MI - Mayor Jim Ellison	Ville de la Prairie, Quebec - Mayor Lucie F. Rousell
Springfield Township, MI – Supervisor Collin Walls	Wainfleet, Ontario - Mayor Harry Gord
Sturgeon Bay, WI - Mayor Dennis D. McIntosh	<i>Windsor, Ontario - Mayor Eddie Francis</i>
Superior, WI - Mayor Dave Ross	
<i>Toledo, OH - Mayor Carleton S. Finkbeiner</i>	
Traverse City, MI - Mayor Linda Smyka	
Vermillion, OH - Mayor Jean Anderson	
Waterford Township, MI - Supervisor Carl W. Solden	
West Bloomfield Township, MI - Supervisor David Flaisher	
Whiting, IN - Mayor Joseph Stahura	
Wilmette, IL – Village Manager Michael J. Earl	
Windpoint, WI - Board President John Knuteson	
Zion, IL - Mayor Lane Harrison	

Bold italicized font indicates members of the Board of Directors

Mayor
DAVID MILLER

March 14, 2006

The Honorable Richard M. Daley
Mayor
City of Chicago
121 North LaSalle Street, Room 502
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mayor Daley:

Richard.
I understand you will testify before the United States Senate, Environment and Public Works Committee, on March 16, 2006 concerning protection and restoration efforts under the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. I write to reemphasize the importance of this work and my support for your efforts as Chairman of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative on behalf of United States and Canadian cities to advance this important cause.

There were a number of Canadian observers to the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration process, and several other Canadian mayors and I were present for the release of the Strategy on December 12, 2005 in Chicago. I am impressed with the quality of the Strategy and the recommendations it contains. It seems important at this time to move forward with implementing the actions contemplated by the strategy, and to obtain the necessary funding to make it successful. I know you are doing everything possible to make that happen.

It is also important to ensure that we fully integrate Canadian and United States efforts on the Great Lakes, and on the St. Lawrence, as well. In Canada, we are about to start discussions about renewal of the Canada-Ontario Agreement concerning the Great Lakes. Implementation of the St. Lawrence Strategy is also moving forward. In addition, the review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between our countries is beginning, and renegotiation of its terms is likely. Any new agreement will play a key role in defining how we work together and what our approach will be to protection and restoration of the resource. I recently wrote to the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Environment Canada, and The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment for Ontario, about the importance of local government participation in these discussions.

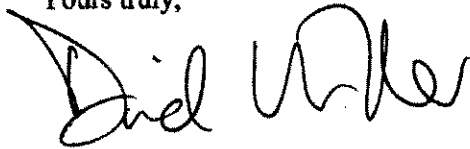
Our work together with United States and Canadian mayors is certainly a place to begin with the integration of work on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. I am aware of the work you are doing with the governors, tribal leaders, and federal officials, and I will be doing the same with the premiers, First Nations, and federal government on the Canadian side. I am confident that we can promote collaboration among the several orders of government in our countries in a true binational spirit that will lead us to a time when our citizens can eat the fish, drink the water,



and swim at the beaches of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence with full assurance that it will add to the quality of their lives.

As Vice Chairman of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and a fellow mayor, I look forward to working with you on this most important task.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "M".

Mayor David Miller
City of Toronto