



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

**RESOLUTION 03 – 2014M**

**MICROBEADS**

**WHEREAS**, many personal care products contain small plastic beads 50 to 500 microns in size that separate during use and wind up going down the drain and leaving homes in the wastewater; and

**WHEREAS**, these microbeads do not decompose and most are so small they pass through wastewater treatment plants and are discharged to the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, and other receiving waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the microbeads are a hazard to fish and wildlife in that they attract and have toxic chemicals adhere to them and appear as food; and

**WHEREAS**, once ingested, the toxic microbeads can cause health problems for the fish and wildlife, and for people who might ingest them; and

**WHEREAS**, there are natural substitutes for the microbeads available at this time, and many personal care products are already using them; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the threats to the environment from microbeads, the state legislatures in New York and Illinois recently introduced bills to ban microbeads in personal care products.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Personal Care Products Council (“PCPC”) and its member companies to agree not to develop any new products containing microbeads; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the PCPC and its member companies to phase out the use of all existing products containing microbeads no later than December 31, 2015.