



November 2, 2007

The Honourable Jim Bradley  
Minister of Transportation  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Bradley,

On behalf of the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Ontario's Minister of Transportation. As you chart out plans for the next four years, we urge your government to treat action on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as a high priority.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a bi-national association of mayors of 49 cities in 10 states and provinces, including Kingston, that are located in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin. The mayors share a commitment and passion for protecting the health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, the source of drinking water, economic vitality, and recreational activity for over 40 million people.

The Cities Initiative recognizes your government's commitment to the Great Lakes with its leadership on the Great Lakes Charter Annex, the 2007 Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and the *Clean Water Act*. We urge you to continue to build on these successes.

In particular, the Cities Initiative is asking the Ontario Government to involve local governments as full partners on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence matters, and secure municipalities a seat at the table for the renegotiation and implementation of COA 2010, and other provincial decisions related to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. It is imperative that cities are included in government to government discussions, rather than as one of a number of stakeholders. We bring significant investment and decision making authority to the table. It is time that we work in a coordinated fashion with the Provincial and Federal Governments to protect the Great Lakes.

.../2

177 North State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 553-4355 fax  
[www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org)

*Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair*

*David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair*

*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding Chair*



It is in this spirit that we are interested in working with you on the development of federal-provincial plans for an 'H2O highway' through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. There may be significant economic benefits for cities with ports in this proposal, and there may also be unintended environmental implications. We would like to offer our help in exploring these considerations jointly with the Province, the Province of Quebec, the Federal Government, and the industries engaged in discussions to date.

The Cities Initiative would welcome a meeting at your convenience to discuss plans for an H2O Highway and ways that we may support each other in developing this important proposal.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to continue the Government's strong support for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in its second mandate.

Sincerely,

Brian McMullan, Mayor of St. Catharines  
Ontario Regional Director, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Lynn Peterson, Mayor of the City of Thunder Bay, and  
Vice Chair, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

David Miller, Mayor of the City of Toronto, and  
Founding Canadian Chair, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

.../3

177 North State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 553-4355 fax  
[www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org)

*Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair*

*David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair*

*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding Chair*



cc. Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment  
Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Shelley Jamieson, Deputy Minister

177 North State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 553-4355 fax  
[www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org)

*Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair*

*David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair*

*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding Chair*