



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

RESOLUTION 03 – 2017M

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE FEDERAL RESTORATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence system is one of the largest sources of fresh water in the world and a natural resource treasure in North America shared by the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, this freshwater resource provides drinking water to more than 48 million Canadians and Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the foundation for the \$5.8 trillion USD economy of eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces and would have the third largest economy in the world if the basin were considered a country; and

WHEREAS, the waters were contaminated over many years in both countries from industrial, agricultural, and municipal sources of pollution; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada entered the Boundary Waters Treaty in 1909 and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972, with amendments in 1978, 1987, and 2012 to address the problems in the Great Lakes, and to protect and preserve them; and

WHEREAS, significant progress has been made over almost 50 years in restoring and protecting the resource, examples of which include delisting 7 Areas of Concern, the most toxic and polluted areas which are remnants of the industrial history of the region; and

WHEREAS, this progress has been the result of significant public and private sector investment over the years; and

WHEREAS, local governments in Canada and the United States have invested over \$15 billion annually in protection and restoration efforts according to [the 2008 Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence study](#); and



WHEREAS, one of the most significant sources of public investment from the United States at the federal level recently has been the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which has made over \$2 billion available for work over the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has proposed eliminating all of the funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2017-2018; and

WHEREAS, federal investment programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the U.S. are critical to leveraging local, state and private investment; and

WHEREAS, while President Trump's Administration has justified eliminating the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by placing the responsibility in state and local hands, we maintain that the protection and restoration of this international freshwater treasure is a shared responsibility with the federal government, and in fact, the U.S. and Canadian federal governments have major responsibilities set out in the international agreements that govern the management of the resource; and

WHEREAS, Canada has made significant investments in water infrastructure and cleanup of toxic hot spots over the years but the level of federal investment has not matched the significance of the resource and magnitude of the challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian budget for 2017-2018 includes \$70.5 million CAD over 5 years to protect freshwater resources including the Great Lakes, and \$43.8 million CAD over 5 years for efforts to address aquatic invasive species in waterways like the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, but still has no single dedicated line item for the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River at the magnitude necessary; and

WHEREAS, these budgets come nowhere near addressing the needs of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and will slow down or stop the restoration efforts and economic recovery in the region; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the U.S. would abruptly halt critical protection and restoration efforts around the clean-up of toxic hot spots, preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River System, addressing polluted runoff that causes toxic algal blooms, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative from the U.S. federal budget threatens not just the source of drinking water for more than 48 million U.S. and Canadian citizens, but jeopardizes a \$7 billion fishery, transportation for



industry and agriculture, quality habitat for fish and wildlife, and much more, all of which rely on clean, navigable water; and

WHEREAS, elimination of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the U.S. federal budget, and the lack of significant dedicated funding in the Canadian federal budget signifies a shirking of responsibility by the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada in protecting the water we drink, the fish we eat, and the beaches and waters we play and work in and around; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the bipartisan support the Great Lakes have received in the U.S. over the years by the U.S. Congressional Great Lakes Task Force.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate the full \$300 million authorized for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the 2017-2018 budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the Canadian Federal Government to work collaboratively with the provinces, local governments, First Nations and Metis, and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence stakeholders to develop a common vision for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence ecosystem and economy, and an investment strategy to support this common vision; this would include an increase in funding to support economic and environmental infrastructure and better coordination of these investments at all levels of government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local governments continue the investments they are making to protect and restore the resource at the levels they have in the past; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state and provincial governments also recognize the importance of the resource in their budgets; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, the Premiers of Quebec and Ontario, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Signed this 14th day of June 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Coderre", written over a horizontal line.

Denis Coderre, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor, City of Montréal