



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

**RESOLUTION 1 – 2016M**

**NUTRIENTS IN LAKE ERIE**

**WHEREAS**, harmful algal blooms (HABs) resulting from excessive nutrient loadings to Lake Erie have a direct adverse impact on the Great Lakes aquatic ecosystem, drinking water, water quality, quality of life and economy including recreation, tourism, and property values; and

**WHEREAS**, if broad and swift action is not taken, HABs, exacerbated by nutrient pollution from human activity, climate change and invasive species, will continue to occur and threaten the health and vitality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system; and

**WHEREAS**, a HAB in the western basin of Lake Erie caused the Toledo drinking water utility to advise over 400,000 citizens not to drink the water for two days in August 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Toledo drinking water crisis brought to light the numerous challenges faced by cities with respect to HABs and water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada and the United States have adopted targets for phosphorus reductions that would require a 40% reduction in targets based on 2008 levels; and

**WHEREAS**, at the same time, under the Western Lake Erie Collaborative, the states of Ohio and Michigan and the Province of Ontario have committed to 40% phosphorus reduction by 2025 with an aspirational target of 20% by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, these jurisdictions are working together under the auspices of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 4 subcommittee to help develop a binational strategy to meet these targets. This strategy will be further refined by each country in domestic action plans, due to be completed by 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) has partnered with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to develop a farmland drainage strategy to reduce phosphorus loss in the Thames River basin, which will contribute to achieving the 40% target for Lake Erie; and



**WHEREAS**, the Cities Initiative is also working with the Michigan Agri-Business Association and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters in Michigan and Ohio EPA and the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership to forge a partnership to reduce phosphorus entering Lake Erie from those two states.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on Canada and the United States (federal parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement) to commit to a 40% reduction in phosphorus entering the Western Basin of Lake Erie by 2025, the same deadline as the Western Lake Erie Collaborative; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on the federal parties, and the state and provincial jurisdictions, to develop, review, and approve domestic action plans and strategies for nutrient reductions as soon as possible, but no later than February 2018; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Governments of Canada and the United States, and the states of Michigan and Ohio, as well as the Province of Ontario, should provide technical and financial support for the Cities Initiative phosphorus reduction projects in Ontario, Michigan, and Ohio; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on the federal parties to implement the measures included in the domestic action plans and strategies so that the necessary nutrient reductions will be achieved in a timely manner, so that fewer, smaller, and shorter HABs will be experienced in the future.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016

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Mitch Twolan, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss