WHEREAS, cities and their citizens require greater transparency of information regarding energy pipelines and that information needs to be provided in ways that are helpful to citizens that want to better understand pipelines and increase pipeline safety; and

WHEREAS, differing jurisdictions (United States and Canadian federal, state, and provincial) often require different safety metrics and occasionally have different definitions for similar terms – all of which makes it very difficult for cities and the public to evaluate industry’s performance; and

WHEREAS, indicators are most meaningful to cities and citizens in order to align industry’s practices and reporting so the public has the information required to hold the industry to account; and

WHEREAS, because of heightened public interest in existing pipelines due to recent failures, proposals to build new pipelines, and associated issues such as climate change and hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), the industry and regulators are struggling to understand their loss of social license, and have slowly come to recognize the need for greater transparency of accurate information.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) support the creation of standardized pipeline safety indicators as being compiled by the Pipeline Safety Trust, a non-profit organization in North America that focuses on improving pipeline safety from a public interest point of view; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls for accurate pipeline location mapping coupled with information on who owns the pipelines, in both countries, particularly for emergency situations; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls for all regulators and pipeline operators to adopt a set of standardized indicators, along with working to produce all the data necessary to compile the indicators and make them easily available to the public.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

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