



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

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports Biden COVID relief package and urges quick approval by Congress

CHICAGO, January 19, 2021 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the incoming Biden Administration’s COVID relief package, titled the American Rescue Plan, and applauds the financial assistance it will provide to struggling towns, villages and cities.

“Our cities are on the front lines confronting the pandemic and suffering from the damage it has caused to our local economies and the revenue shortfalls that threaten our ability to maintain vital services for our constituents,” said Mayor Mike Vandersteen, Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. “With worsening economic conditions and an escalating pandemic, it’s critical that we avoid further economic damage to local communities and set the stage for a swift recovery. We call on Congress to approve the Biden plan to bring urgently needed relief to cities in the Great Lakes region.”

The Biden COVID package includes \$350 billion in direct aid to state, local, and territorial governments that will help fund frontline workers, public transit agencies and pandemic response.

About The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of close to 100 U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The Cities Initiative and local officials integrate environmental, economic and social agendas and sustain a resource that represents approximately 80 percent of North America’s surface freshwater supply, provides drinking water for 40 million people and is the foundation upon which a strong regional economy is based.

#

For More Information Contact:

Jonathan Altenberg
Executive Director
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mobile: 847-347-6947