



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 infrastructure plan

CHICAGO, March 31, 2021 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the Biden Administration’s infrastructure plan that will help address critical water infrastructure needs.

“Water infrastructure needs have been greatly underfunded, and we believe that the Biden Administration’s infrastructure plan will go a long way in helping solve this problem,” said Mayor Mike Vandersteen, Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

“I applaud the Biden Administration for prioritizing our country's infrastructure with an emphasis on equity, sustainability, and jobs,” said Chicago Mayor and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative board member Lori E. Lightfoot. “Through a series of bold actions, this infrastructure plan will address the urgent needs of Americans, which includes increased funding for the modernization of drinking water and wastewater systems, the removal of lead pipes and service lines, understanding that access to clean water is a right in all communities.”

“In addition to water restoration, the funding will also impact local economies,” said Milwaukee Mayor and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative board member Tom Barrett.

“Supporting resilience, mitigation and ecosystem restoration are wise investments that are estimated to return more than \$6 for every \$1 spent and create 39 jobs per \$1 million spent.”

“The Great Lakes represent 80 percent of North America’s supply of fresh surface water and are the drinking water source for 40 million people,” said Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative board member. “The infrastructure bill resonates strongly with the Cities Initiative’s Mayors Commission on Water Equity, which is prioritizing policies and investments in four critical areas to strengthen water equity for minority and underserved communities, including lead contamination of drinking water; water affordability; water workforce development; and urban flooding.”

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.

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