



June 2022

A Resolution Submitted by The City of Racine and the City of Rimouski



The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Leading the Creation of a Bi-National Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Blue Economy Strategy

WHEREAS the United States has an opportunity to harness its growth potential by building back better—and bluer—via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Blue Economy Strategic Plan that lays out a roadmap for new ways to advance America’s Blue Economy and enhance the global ocean economy. Ideas and processes being expressed by Americans provide a roadmap for a companion strategy for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River.

WHEREAS Canada has an opportunity to harness its growth potential of its freshwater economy by building back better — and bluer -- through strategic investments in existing and emerging freshwater and maritime industry sectors, supporting municipalities in adapting and transforming their shorelines and waterfronts to tap into new opportunities and respond to climate change impacts, investing in the restoration and stewardship of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and integrating a freshwater pillar in the development of the federal government’s Blue Economy Strategy.

AND WHEREAS Canada and the U.S. have a history of working together to support the development and environmental health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River with the

development of the St. Lawrence Seaway more than 70 years ago and the signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement 50 years ago.

AND WHEREAS with the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, both nations should once again come together to present an integrated vision for a clean, sustainable, and economically prosperous and inclusive Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River blue economy.

AND WHEREAS Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin municipalities are important actors in supporting the Canada-U.S. trade relationship, in further unifying our regional economy, and supporting integrated economic sectors that transcend our national borders.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is unique as the sole organization focused on giving mayors and municipalities a voice in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative create a task force to study and make recommendations for a comprehensive Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River blue economy strategy.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative work and coordinate with relevant stakeholders in Canada and the U.S. in the development of a bi-national Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Blue Economy Strategy.