



June 2022

A Resolution Submitted by the City of Sheboygan



Creating a Great Lakes Authority

WHEREAS the eight states that comprise the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes watershed contain a large core of America's commercial and industrial base and are well-positioned along the shores of the largest system of available freshwater on earth.

AND WHEREAS this existing economic base contains the nation's largest pool of skilled and experienced production workers. The eight states in the Great Lakes Basin account for 25 percent of all U.S. trade with Canada, which is the U.S.'s largest export market. In 2020, Canada imported more than \$255 billion of U.S. goods and services.

AND WHEREAS this provides a solid foundation for creating a unique 21st century regional development strategy – one that can enable the U.S. to invest more equitably in workforce development, innovative energy technologies and manufacturing processes, and responsible stewardship of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

AND WHEREAS there is a recognized need to restore and protect the Great Lakes, the principal source of surface freshwater in North America.

AND WHEREAS Franklin D. Roosevelt created the model for such a strategy in 1933 with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) – a unique institution brought into being to control the raging

waters of the Tennessee River, provide low-cost electricity, and advance the economic development of the under-invested seven states in the basin. Like with the TVA, there is a recognized need for a robust new partnership uniting the Great Lakes communities and catalyzing regional revitalization in communities disproportionately affected by the outsourcing of jobs.

AND WHEREAS our times require a 21st century version of such an authority in the Great Lakes region – one that can protect and wisely use the fresh waters of the Great Lakes, build back better the region's economy, and be a necessary exemplar for climate change mitigation and adaption.

AND WHEREAS such an authority would need a funding mechanism to achieve goals for clean energy, green infrastructure, and water infrastructure.

AND WHEREAS federal legislation entitled “The Great Lakes Authority Act” was introduced earlier this year to address the issues above.

AND WHEREAS The Great Lakes Authority Act provides for the authority to receive \$30 million in funding beginning fiscal year 2023 and \$50 million each fiscal year thereafter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. Congress to create the Great Lakes Authority to:

- Restore and protect America's principal source of fresh water
- Foster innovation, commercialize it, and by that create more and better jobs
- Strengthen and expand the core U.S. manufacturing and industrial base and the required energy systems to sustain/power production
- Create world-class worker education, training, and adjustment institutions
- Work with the government and provinces of Canada on our mutual Great Lakes challenges including the Great Lakes – St Lawrence Seaway Corporation

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to President Joe Biden, Congress of the United States of America, the Governors of the eight Great Lakes states, and members of the U.S. Congress from the eight Great Lakes Basin states.