



**GREAT LAKES AND  
ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE



June 2023

*A Resolution Submitted by the County of Grey*



### **Reaffirming the Vital Importance of the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement**

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin, the Government of Québec and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are Parties to the 2005 Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (the Agreement) that recognizes that the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin (basin) are a shared public treasure and the States and Provinces as stewards have a shared duty to protect, conserve and manage these renewable but finite waters; and

WHEREAS Article 200 of the Agreement sets out prohibitions for new or increased inter- and intra-basin diversions, meaning a transfer of Water from the basin into another watershed, or from the watershed of one of the Great Lakes into that of another; and

WHEREAS Article 201 of the Agreement clearly states cases for exceptions to the Prohibition of Diversions under Article 200, including diversions requiring notice to the other Parties of the Agreement and which are subject to Regional Review; and

WHEREAS several regions of the world are already experiencing drought conditions, including in North America; and

WHEREAS parts of the basin are currently experiencing rapid population growth, adding further strain and exacerbating pollution issues on freshwater resources in the basin; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Forest Service warns that half of the current basin won't be able to keep up with current monthly user demands by 2071; and

WHEREAS future diversions and consumptive uses (i.e. water withdrawn from the basin that is lost or otherwise not returned) of the finite fresh water resources of the basin have the potential to significantly impact the environment, economic and welfare of residents in the basin; and

WHEREAS since 2006, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has called on the eight Great Lakes States and the Province of Ontario and Government of Quebec to implement the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative reaffirms the vital importance of upholding the Agreement to protect the quality and quantity of available freshwater resources in the basin;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strenuously objects to any increased inter- and intra-basin transfers that do not meet the terms of the Agreement and without the Governing Body of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement being advised and a Regional Review being undertaken, where deemed necessary by the terms of the Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member municipalities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are committed to the sustainable management of resources in the basin, respecting the terms of the Agreement and intervening when the Agreement is not being respected by any of the Parties to the Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to: the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States and Premiers of the Province of Ontario and the Government of Québec; and the legislative leaders in each legislature of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.