

## **Mayors Call for Swift Resolution and a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Strong Response to Impending Trade War Between Both Countries**

Today, Austin Bonta, Mayor of Portage, IN, and Mat Siscoe, Mayor of St. Catharines, ON, issued the following statement on behalf of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, regarding a potential trade war between the United States and Canada:

“As the clock winds down to the possible imposition of a blanket 25% blanket tariff on Canadian exports to the United States, followed by anticipated reciprocal actions by the Government of Canada, we add our voices to the growing chorus of American and Canadian leaders, who oppose the prospect of harmful trade war between our two countries.

Our region, with the beautiful Great Lakes and mighty St. Lawrence River, is a potent symbol of cross-border cooperation, friendship, and ingenuity. Together, as sovereign nations, we’ve built a highly integrated economy worth US\$6 trillion and over CA\$8 trillion – the third largest in the world. Together, we’ve built a Seaway that connects the economic centers of both countries and the industrial heartland of our continent to global commerce. The economic engine of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region supports over 50 million jobs that our residents count on. The livelihoods of millions cannot be put at risk by putting these jobs in jeopardy.

Our lakes and rivers propel our enterprises and entrepreneurs, and dynamic workforce. Working together, we have forged leading industries, companies, and multi-billion-dollar supply chains that span our borders. Our connected manufacturing, agri-food, energy, and transport sectors supply the United States, Canada, and the world. We must not let a trade war destroy this remarkable bilateral relationship we have built over the centuries.

Make no mistake, we share a commitment to protecting American and Canadian workers, companies, and communities. We also believe that we can work together to strengthen our border, drive shared economic prosperity, and provide stability and security in these uncertain times. A trade war undermines these shared goals.

We commend all the municipal leaders, premiers and governors, labor groups, and business leaders from our region who have spoken out against the prospect of blanket tariffs and who value our mutually beneficial trade relationship. We urge both federal governments to work together to avoid any negative economic impacts.

Should our federal governments move forward with an escalating trade war that will harm our communities, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region must stand united, roll up its sleeves, and do whatever it takes to protect our workers and employers. Together, let’s stand Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Strong.”

### **Additional information:**

- A trade war would be devastating for both the U.S. and Canadian economies. A recent [analysis](#) found that, if the United States imposes a blanket 25 percent tariff on Canadian



- goods and if Canada retaliates as expected, the results could be a 1.6 percent decrease in U.S. gross domestic product and a 2.6 decrease in Canadian gross domestic product.
- Canada is the top export market for the United States as a whole and for [all eight Great Lakes states individually](#), with these states collectively exporting \$133.7 billion in goods to Canada each year.

### **About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational, mayor-led coalition of U.S. and Canadian cities dedicated to the environmental and socioeconomic health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. With more than 260 member cities, the Cities Initiative is the largest municipally driven organization in the basin focused on issues impacting their residents.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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