

A Resolution Submitted by the Town of Lincoln, ON and the City of Muskegon, MI



REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

May 2025

WHEREAS pollution from one source can affect the water quality of the entire Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin, impacting the drinking water supply of over 30 million people and putting at risk the basin's vibrant freshwater ecosystem.

AND WHEREAS transboundary water cooperation is pivotal to promoting economic prosperity, environmental protection and public health across the basin.

AND WHEREAS the United States and Canada signed the Boundary Waters Treaty in 1909, making history as the first countries to embrace a basin-wide approach to international water management and formally collaborate to protect their shared water resources.

AND WHEREAS the United States and Canada subsequently signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) in 1972, committing the two countries to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Waters of the Great Lakes."

AND WHEREAS the GLWQA heralded a new era of water leadership in both countries, catalyzing critical investments in water infrastructure, technological innovation and economic development growth while inspiring landmark environmental legislation like the Clean Water Act in the United States and the Environmental Contaminants Act in Canada.

AND WHEREAS the GLWQA was updated in 1978, 1987 and 2012, with the most recent update formally recognizing Tribal Governments, First Nations and municipal governments as essential partners for successful basin-wide water management and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge in management decisions.

AND WHEREAS the basin is widely recognized as the global paradigm of transboundary water management, largely due to the structures of collaboration embedded in the GLWQA and the historically strong relationship between Canada and the United States.

AND WHEREAS continued action is needed to remediate legacy pollution, restore Great Lakes ecosystems, combat emerging contaminants and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has long recognized the GLWQA's significant contributions to the health of the basin's lakes and rivers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiative reaffirms its support for the GLWQA and all transboundary, collaborative efforts to protect and restore water quality in the basin and calls on Canada and the United States to remain party to these effective binational water governance structures.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio; Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand; the Great Lakes Task Force in the U.S. Congress and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Group of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group.