



Statement of Support for the Cities Initiative's Economic Transformation Action Plan

We, the undersigned organizations, welcome the release of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's *Economic Transformation Action Plan: A Blueprint for Economic Growth and Freshwater Stewardship in the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence River Region* and support its ambition of transforming our regional economy into a world-renowned Fresh Coast Economic Corridor.

Our region is home to 84 percent of North America's surface fresh water, which powers industries across our regional economy – the third largest in the world – and provides drinking water to more than 40 million people. As global water scarcity increases, we have a historic opportunity to bring new businesses and residents to our region. In preparation for this future, we must advance a new model of responsible economic development that protects our water quality and supply, futureproofs our businesses and communities and ensures economic benefits are broadly shared.

Developed by the Cities Initiative's Mayors Commission on Economic Transformation, the Action Plan provides a 10-year, locally led blueprint that promotes economic growth while safeguarding our region's precious freshwater resources. Specifically, it recommends a series of strategies and actions to attract and retain industries committed to sustainability, strengthen waterborne commerce and tourism, revitalize our waterfronts and expand the use of clean energy.

We thank our region's local elected leaders for setting forth an actionable vision for building a Fresh Coast Economic Corridor and look forward to contributing to the Action Plan's effective implementation wherever aligned with our respective missions.

Alliance for the Great Lakes
AquaAction
Centre de transfert technologique en
écologie industrielle
Chamber of Marine Commerce
Charbone Hydrogen Corporation
Climate Mayors
Conservation Ontario
Council of the Great Lakes Region

Current
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus
HOPA Ports
Huron Pines
OPTERRA Energy Services
U.S. Water Alliance
The Water Council
Waterfront Alliance