A Resolution Submitted by the City of Sheboygan, WI

STRENGTHENING THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC PROSPERITY ACROSS THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER REGION

May 2026

WHEREAS the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) has since its entry into force in 2020 provided a stable and predictable framework for North American trade and investment, supporting about US$2 trillion in annual trilateral trade and deeply integrated cross-border supply chains essential to the economic prosperity and security of the parties.

AND WHEREAS bilateral trade between the United States and Canada alone totals approximately US$1 trillion annually, with Canada being the top trading partner of more than 30 U.S. states.

AND WHEREAS the economies of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region comprise the third largest economy in the world, generating 30 percent of economic activity in both the United States and Canada, according to the Bank of Montreal.

AND WHEREAS communities across our region are among the most trade dependent in North America, relying on predictable market access, efficient border operations and integrated supply chains to sustain economic growth and job creation.

AND WHEREAS business organizations and sectoral associations – both national and regional – have emphasized that the preservation of the USMCA's rules-based architecture remains the single most important signal of certainty for North American businesses and consumers.

AND WHEREAS economic competitiveness increasingly depends on resilient infrastructure, secure access to critical inputs, regulatory cooperation and long-term investment certainty, all of which are directly influenced by the effective implementation of the USMCA.

AND WHEREAS the Six-Year Joint Review of the USMCA, scheduled for July 1, 2026, represents an important opportunity for the parties to reaffirm their shared commitment to the agreement.

AND WHEREAS the continuation of the USMCA – combined with the further operationalization of the agreement's provisions on supply-chain resiliency and economic competitiveness – are essential prerequisites to building a world-renowned Fresh Coast Economic Corridor and attracting half a million new businesses to our region over the next decade, as detailed in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's *Economic Transformation Action Plan*.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiative calls on the Government of the United States to preserve the USMCA while using the 2026 Joint Review to reaffirm and further operationalize provisions impacting supply-chain resiliency and economic competitiveness, reinforcing a strong U.S.-Canada trade relationship and our $9.3-trillion regional economy.

- The Cities Initiative affirms that supply-chain resiliency across our region depends on the effective and predictable implementation of USMCA provisions related to market access for goods and investment certainty, including those set out in Chapter 2 (National Treatment and Market Access for Goods) and Chapter 14 (Investment), which together support integrated production, cross-border investment and long-term economic stability in our region and beyond.

- The Cities Initiative supports the use of the USMCA's institutional cooperation mechanisms – including the operationalization of the North American Competitiveness Committee established under Chapter 26 (Competitiveness) – as critical forums to encourage investment, production and trade and advance regulatory transparency in our region and beyond.

- The Cities Initiative urges the Government of the United States to continue to invest in strategic customs clearance capacity at regional ports in order to facilitate robust maritime commerce across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, consistent with Chapter 7 (Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation).

- The Cities Initiative will continue to engage its members and all relevant stakeholders to provide practical, place-based perspectives on the implementation and evolution of the USMCA, ensuring the agreement continues to deliver tangible benefits to businesses and communities across our region.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer.