



L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT
GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE

Statement from Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson on U.S.-Canada Trade and Tariffs

September 2, 2026

Today, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is calling on the United States and Canadian governments to avoid the implementation of new tariffs and retaliatory measures and to return to the negotiating table in good faith to extend and strengthen the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Doing so would help reinforce the relationship and build confidence in an otherwise uncertain economic climate.

“The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region is the third largest economy in the world, generating \$9.3 trillion USD in economic output each year, largely due to the strength of the highly integrated supply chains between the United States and Canada,” said Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson. “This trade war does nothing but hurt our communities by destabilizing industries, threatening jobs, and raising costs for our families and businesses.”

Earlier this year, the Cities Initiative’s U.S. members approved a resolution entitled [***Strengthening the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to Support Economic Prosperity Across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region***](#). This resolution called on the United States to remain party to the USMCA while further operationalizing provisions impacting supply-chain resiliency and economic competitiveness.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region represents over 50% of bilateral trade and more than 30% of combined economic output for our two countries.

About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of municipal and Tribal government executives representing communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region who are working to promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 425 communities represented, the Cities Initiative is leading the way in advancing the environmental, economic, and social health of the region by addressing issues impacting its residents. The Cities Initiative is comprised of a U.S. organization and a Canadian organization. In September 2025, the Cities Initiative launched its [***Economic Transformation Action Plan: A Blueprint for Economic Growth and Freshwater Stewardship in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region***](#).

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