FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Following the U.S. midterms, Great Lakes mayors urge action to resolve trade tensions with Canada

CHICAGO – Nov. 6, 2026 – Following the U.S. midterm elections in which cost-of-living concerns were front of mind for many American voters, several U.S. members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are calling on the U.S. and Canadian governments to return to the negotiating table to address ongoing trade tensions that are increasing costs and harming our regional economy.

"Here in Wisconsin, we see firsthand how tariffs and trade uncertainty affect our manufacturers, our port and the businesses and families that depend on a stable trading relationship with our neighbors to the north," said Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, Chair of the Cities Initiative. "Our economic relationship with Canada supports jobs and industries across our state, and continued trade barriers put that at risk. With the midterm elections behind us, it's time for leaders in Washington and Ottawa to resolve these trade disputes and provide the stability our communities need to grow."

The economic relationship between the United States and Canada is one of the largest and most integrated bilateral trading partnerships in the world. Our region alone represents more than 50% of bilateral trade and more than 30% of the combined economic output of the two countries. The region generates US$9 trillion / CA$12 trillion in economic output each year, largely due to the strength of highly integrated supply chains between the two countries.

Mayor Johnson of Milwaukee is joined by other Great Lakes mayors in calling for greater economic certainty and a strong and stable U.S.-Canada trading relationship (see their statement here). This statement was endorsed by Buffalo Mayor Sean Ryan, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans, and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

A similar statement was issued by the Cities Initiative's Canadian counterpart – the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative/Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint Laurent – and endorsed by Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer, London Mayor Josh Morgan, Mississauga Mayor-Elect Alvin Tedjo, Montréal Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada, and Toronto City Councillor Paul Ainslie.

Earlier this year, the Cities Initiative's U.S. members approved a resolution urging the United States and Canada to remain parties to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement while strengthening provisions that support supply chain resilience and economic competitiveness.

About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a U.S. coalition of municipal and Tribal government executives representing communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region that is working to

promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 200 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.*

For more information, please contact:
Christine Maydossian | MERCURE | cmaydossian@mercure.ca