

Mackinac Island, Michigan
June 1, 2013

RESOLUTION

SUPPORT FOR A RENEWED GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes region would represent the fourth largest economy in the world if it were its own nation;¹ and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes support the movement of 16 million metric tons of cargo per year, sustaining 200,000 jobs;² and,

WHEREAS, the economy and ecology of the Great Lakes are inseparably linked in supporting an estimated 40 million people who live, work, recreate and drink the water in the region; and,

WHEREAS, for this reason, research concludes that for every dollar invested in Great Lakes restoration and maintenance, more than two dollars is returned on that investment;³ and,

WHEREAS, like our homes, the Great Lakes must be maintained for them to be able to continue to support its residents and labor force; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing this, the Council of Great Lakes Governors in 2003 established nine “priorities” to advance the resiliency of the region’s economy and ecology;⁴ and,

WHEREAS, whereas the nine priorities served as a basis for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy;⁵ and,

WHEREAS, the Council of Great Lakes Governors has supported funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative intended to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and with five “focus areas” based in significant part on the nine priorities⁶; and,

WHEREAS, investments made under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative have already supported hundreds of projects and jobs to prevent the establishment of Asian carp, expedite the cleanup of Areas of Concern, reduce runoff that undermines local coastal economies, rebuild habitat, and promote accountability; and⁷,

WHEREAS, the Obama administration announced early this year its support for a renewed Action Plan covering federal fiscal years 2015-2019 to continue the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.⁸

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors support the renewal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors urge the federal agencies to engage specifically with the states to ensure their perspectives are considered in the development and refinement of the next generation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan.

Adopted by the Governors of the Great Lakes States on this 1st day of June 2013.

¹ Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Region: 2013 Economy Profile Update,” World Business Chicago, 2013, pp. 16-17. Online at [http://www.worldbusinesschicago.com/files/data/GLSL_Economy_2013%20\(2011%20data\).pdf](http://www.worldbusinesschicago.com/files/data/GLSL_Economy_2013%20(2011%20data).pdf).

² “The Economic Impacts of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System,” Martin Associates (Lancaster, Pennsylvania), October 18, 2011.

³ Austin, John C., et al., “America’s North Coast: a Benefit-Cost Analysis of a Program to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes,” Brookings Institution, September 4, 2007. Online at <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2007/09/04gleiecosystem-austin>.

⁴ <http://www.cglg.org/projects/priorities/docs/GovernorGreatLakesrestorationletter-10-1-03--Example.pdf>.

⁵ <http://www.glrc.us/about.html>

⁶ http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2010-02-25/opinions/36800865_1_great-lakes-restoration-initiative-burns-ditch-lake-michigan and <http://www.cglg.org/projects/priorities/docs/CGLG%20Multi-Year%20Plan%20Comments%208-19-09.pdf>

⁷ <http://glri.us/>

⁸ <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2013/03/07/feds-making-long-range-great-lakes-cleanup-plans/>