

**RESOLUTION CREATING THE CONFERENCE
OF GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS**

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence contain approximately 20 % of the world's surface fresh water, making it an unparalleled shared public treasure that the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec, as primary stewards, have a shared duty to protect, conserve and manage; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec represent a total population in excess of 100 million people and nearly 60 million residents live within the entire Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin. These Americans and Canadians depend on and use the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence for drinking water, recreation, manufacturing, power generation, fishing, commerce and navigation, tourism and for beauty and awe among other uses and benefits; and

WHEREAS, the economies of the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec are highly integrated, collectively representing the third largest economy in the world, and further collective promotion and integration will be to the benefit of the economies and citizens of the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of Great Lakes Governors ("Council") was first established in 1983 as a non-partisan partnership of Governors from the eight Great Lakes States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin with the charge of leading the nation in promoting and protecting its member States' natural resources while sustaining a world-class regional economy; and,

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Premiers of Ontario and Québec as associate members have worked closely in partnership with the Great Lakes Governors through the Council to advance the region's environmental health and high performance economy; and,

WHEREAS, strengthening and extending the organizational framework for further integration and collaboration between the Governors and Premiers will yield individual and regional benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, hereby create the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers ("Conference"), whose membership shall consist of the Governors and Premiers of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec and Wisconsin. The purpose of the Conference will be to more effectively work toward shared goals including sustainable development for the benefit of our citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Conference appoint the Council of Great Lakes Governors, Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, to serve as the secretariat to the Conference and otherwise provide support for its activities.

Done in the English and French languages.