



Co-Chair's Letter

Last month I joined with my fellow co-chair, Governor Snyder of Michigan, to convene the Council of Great Lakes Governors on Mackinac Island, Michigan. This leadership summit marked the first gathering of the



Illinois Governor
Pat Quinn

Governors and Premiers of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region since 2005.

At the summit, we renewed our commitment to regional cooperation. More importantly, we launched a series of new actions that will bring positive results in coming months.

For example, we announced that the Council of Great Lakes Governors will be leading three multi-State trade missions in the next year to some of the world's most dynamic markets. The mission to Singapore and Indonesia, in particular, will focus on promoting our region's growing water sector companies as part of our new "Water Partnership." We also created a Maritime Task Force that will help us to reimagine how we work as a region to build and maintain our ports, harbors and related infrastructure.

Further, we re-energized our work on environmental protection. We recommitted ourselves to the "Great Lakes Compact" and Agreement, and pledged resources to our continued water management efforts. We also took a broader series of actions to help restore and protect our environment.

We have created an ambitious work plan. We now look forward to working with our many partners across the region to realize its promise.

—Pat Quinn
Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Illinois

Governors and Premiers Set New Regional Agenda

From May 31 to June 2, the Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec gathered on Mackinac Island, Michigan for the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit, where they set a new collaborative agenda for the region. The Leadership Summit's theme, "Strengthening Our Economy and Protecting Our Great Lakes," included a particular focus on trade, transportation and water.

At the Summit, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers united to work together to enhance our region's competitiveness in the global economy.

They also took steps that will lead to managing our shared water supplies more sustainably, combat aquatic invasive species and enhance water safety. The



Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Indiana Governor Mike Pence gathered to discuss the region's future.

Governors and Premier in attendance included:

- Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair
- Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair
- Indiana Governor Mike Pence
- Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker
- Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne

Representatives of Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton; New York Governor Andrew Cuomo; Ohio Governor John Kasich;

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Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett; and, Québec Premier Pauline Marois were also present and participated on their behalf during the Summit's events.

"The Governors and Premiers last gathered here on Mackinac Island thirty years ago to set an agenda that we still follow in 2013. At this Summit, we have charted a new course for the next three decades," said Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair.



Above: Governor Snyder and Governor Pence shakes hands as Governor Walker looks on.

Below: The Governors and Premier participate in a roundtable discussion on regional priorities.

The Governors and Premiers took the following actions:

- * Created a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Maritime Initiative**
- * Adopted a resolution calling for expanded international trade and export opportunities**
- * Launched the "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Partnership"**
- * Identified a "least wanted list" of aquatic invasive species, and pledged to harmonize regulatory efforts**
- * Promoted economic cooperation between Canada and the U.S.**
- * Proclaimed beach safety awareness week and announced the creation of an "app" to help improve water safety**
- * Called on the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada to address nutrient enrichment and harmful algal blooms**
- * Improved coordination of water quality and quantity monitoring to promote more effective policy**

The following speakers joined the Governors and Premiers to discuss ways to strengthen the region's economy and protect our waters:

- U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood delivered the keynote address, "Enhancing Regional Transportation and Ports"
- The Honorable Gary Doer, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.
- The Honorable David Jacobson, U.S. Ambassador to Canada
- Dave Kepler, Executive Vice President of Business Services, Chief Sustainability Officer & Chief Information Officer, The Dow Chemical Company
- Mario Longhi, President & Chief Operating Officer, United States Steel Corporation
- Mark Tercek, President & CEO, The Nature Conservancy
- William Ford, Executive Chairman, Ford Motor Company

"The Governors and Premier have taken a number of bold steps to protect the natural environment, ensure the safety of people who want to enjoy the lakes, and create new economic opportunities so that we can better work together to compete with the world," said Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair.

More information on the Summit and the approved resolutions can be found at www.cglg.org.



*Above: The Governors and Premier seated at the Grand Hotel.
Below: Governor Pence moderates a panel discussion with Dave Kepler of The Dow Chemical Company, Mario Longhi of the United States Steel Corporation and Mark Tercek of the Nature Conservancy.*

Governors and Premiers Create Regional Maritime Initiative

The Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec launched a new Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Maritime Initiative to improve the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River maritime transportation system. By year's end, the Governors' and Premiers' newly formed Maritime Task Force will present them with recommendations, including financing options for the maintenance or replacement of aging infrastructure. This Initiative will help rejuvenate this critical component of the region's transportation system, and is an important step toward improving the region's economic competitiveness.

The Governors and Premiers also called on both Federal Governments to authorize, manage and fund



A cargo ship enters the Port of Duluth, Minnesota.

the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River

maritime system as a single transportation system for the benefit of the entire region and both national economies.

Through this Initiative, the Governors and Premiers will analyze system needs and determine how the region can better maintain and improve maritime assets. Among its outcomes, this collaborative effort will work to identify improved funding mechanisms, help establish more coherent regulations across the region and develop solutions to improve the region's port network.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Maritime System:

- Generates more than 200,000 jobs
- \$30 billion in annual business revenue
- More than 100 commercial ports
- 25 of the top 100 US ports and 12 of Canada's top 50 ports by tonnage
- A continuous waterway extending more than 2,400 miles (3,840 kilometers)
- Links to 40 provincial and interstate highways, and nearly 30 rail lines
- 80 percent of harbor structures are older than their 50-year design life

Council to Lead Trade Mission to South America

The Council of Great Lakes Governors, in a unique collaboration with its member States, assists small to mid-size companies from the region in exporting their goods and services. The Council's approach is focused on expanding product and service sales, driving regional economic growth and creating jobs. Toward this end, the Council will lead a multi-State trade mission to South America from September 8-17, 2013. The mission will visit Bogotá, Santiago and São Paulo.

The Council's trade offices provide each mission participant with a customized business schedule to meet with prospective representatives, clients or agents targeted to their specific industry and business needs. In addition, participants benefit from in-country briefings, logistical support and networking events.

Nalex Cordova of Blair Rubber Company in Seville, Ohio, recently participated in the Council's mission to Australia. He said, "As an international business developer, I have worked with other US agencies for similar trade services. I do have to admit that this is by far the best experience I've had. I was very impressed by the thoroughness and enthusiasm in not leaving any stone unturned in pursuit of any potential opportunities for my company."

For more information on the Council's upcoming trade missions please visit: <http://www.cglg.org/projects/trade/TradeMissions.asp>.



Council Launches Water Partnership

North America's "water belt" is the heart of the global "blue economy." Capitalizing on its abundant natural resources including nearly twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region is today a dynamic water sector hub building on historic strengths in agriculture and water-intensive manufacturing. The Great Lakes Governors and Premiers have fueled this blue economy with innovative policy, global marketing support and strategic investment attraction. The result is a growing and outward-looking market with world leaders in advanced water technology, valves, filtration, green infrastructure, engineering and consulting. It is estimated that within four years, the global market for water-related products and services will reach nearly \$800 billion annually.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Partnership will:

- * Create a regional forum and brand for the region's water-related companies
- * Develop a "Water Partnership Buyer's Guide" of companies and service providers in the region's water sector
- * Lead water sector trade missions including to Singapore and Indonesia in conjunction with Singapore Water Week in June 2014
- * Showcase innovative water sector technology and services through international clean water projects
- * Hold free "Water Sector Opportunities" webinars for regional companies, with a focus on high-growth markets such as China, India and South America
- * Foster region-wide collaboration and information sharing

For more information on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Partnership and to register your company in the Water Partnership Buyer's Guide please visit www.greatlakeswaterpartnership.org.

Great Lakes USA Attends International Pow Wow 2013

Great Lakes USA attended International Pow Wow 2013 in Las Vegas with a double booth and participants from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the city of Indianapolis. International Pow Wow is the travel industry's premier international marketplace and a major generator of travel to the United States.

In just three days of intensive business appointments, more than 1,000 U.S. travel organizations representing all industry category components and every region of the country, and more than 1,200 international and domestic buyers from more than 70 countries negotiated more than \$3.5 billion in future travel.

Next year's International Pow Wow will take place in Chicago from April 5-9, 2014!



The Great Lakes USA booth at International Pow Wow in Las Vegas.

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