Chair’s Letter

Over the past three years, the Governors and Premiers have worked to build a regional consensus on maritime transportation, invasive species, water management, trade and economic development. Our shared efforts continue to pay dividends, and in the coming months we will work to solidify the foundation for future success.

Our region’s first maritime transportation strategy, developed with a broad coalition of governmental and other regional partners, was recognized with a national award. Additionally, a group of US Senators recently expressed their support, and called for follow-through by the US Department of Transportation. Momentum continues to build for this work that is critically important to our regional and national economies.

At the same time, our partnership to combat aquatic invasive species continues its success. Ontario recently posted important regulations to crack down on our region’s most harmful aquatic invaders. I congratulate Premier Wynne and her team on this accomplishment as we redouble our fight against AIS.

These achievements underscore the importance of collaborating across borders. We are committed to further strengthening our partnership and appreciate your continued work with us.

—Rick Snyder
Chair, Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
Governor, State of Michigan

Conference Awarded for Maritime Initiative

On November 14, the Conference’s Maritime Initiative earned a prestigious U.S. national award—the President’s Transportation Award for Water Transportation from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). AASHTO is an association representing highway and transportation departments from the 50 U.S. states. It represents all five transportation modes: air, highways, public transportation, rail, and water. The award recognizes “an individual or team that has performed exemplary service furthering the transportation activities of their member department which has or potentially could have a salutary impact on transportation nationwide, or on a regional basis.” The award was announced at the AASHTO 2016 annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

Separately, on October 20, a group of nine U.S. Senators sent a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx urging the department to take a leadership role in the implementation of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime transportation system strategy developed by the Conference. For more information on the Conference’s Maritime Initiative, click HERE.
Conference to Lead Trade Missions to Southeast Asia and Mexico

In early 2017, the Conference will lead multi-sector trade missions to two rapidly growing international markets: Southeast Asia and Mexico.

**Indonesia and Vietnam Trade Mission**
Cities: Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh City  
Dates: February 27 - March 4, 2017  
Registration Deadline: December 15, 2016

Key Sectors: Agriculture, Aviation, Construction & Engineering, Environmental/Pollution Control, Franchising, Health Care & Medical Equipment, IT, Oil & Gas

**Mexico Trade Mission**
Cities: Mexico City and Queretaro/Monterrey  
Dates: April 3-7, 2017  
Registration Deadline: January 25, 2017


The Conference’s trade offices and representatives in each market will create customized business appointment schedules for each participating Great Lakes-St. Lawrence company to meet with potential clients, distributors and end users. Participants will also benefit from networking events and logistical support. Many of the Conference’s member States have grant funding to offset mission participation and travel costs. More information on these trade missions can be found HERE.

Regional Body and Compact Council To Hold December Meetings in Columbus

On December 8, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (“Regional Body”) and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (“Compact Council”) will meet in Columbus, Ohio at 9:00 a.m EST. These meetings will be open to the public and will include opportunities for public comments. Further information including an agenda, materials to be discussed and call-in information will be available HERE and HERE.
Ontario Invasive Species Act Boosts Regional Protection

On November 3, Ontario’s Invasive Species Act entered into force. This groundbreaking legislation takes a proactive approach to preventing new introductions of invasive species, in alignment with the Governors’ and Premiers’ regional AIS partnership. In particular, the newly introduced regulations under the Act include the listing of all 16 of the Governors’ and Premiers’ “least wanted” AIS as prohibited.

Together, the States and Provinces have made 40 new listings that prohibit, restrict, or otherwise regulate aquatic invaders since the Governors and Premiers renewed their commitment to battling AIS in the region in 2013. More information on the Conference’s AIS program can be found HERE.

Great Lakes USA Holds Annual Meeting

From July 12-13, Great Lakes USA held its annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio. TourismOhio and Experience Columbus hosted the meeting. Attendees had the opportunity to tour attractions such as the Pizzuti Collection museum and Candle Labs. More information on Great Lakes USA is available HERE.

Tourism experts from around the region gathered for the Great Lakes USA annual meeting.