



**The Honourable Gail Shea**  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington St.  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

**Secretary Janet Napolitano**  
Department of Homeland Security  
US Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC  
20528

**Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Dear Minister Shea and Secretary Napolitano,

On behalf of the Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River we are writing to express serious concerns about the recent events in the Gulf of Mexico. These events have underscored the fragility of our water resources, the importance of prevention, and the difficulty in a rapid and effective response.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the source of drinking water for 30 million Canadians and Americans. The public is anxious to know how authorities would respond to a major spill in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. They want to be assured that we have the capacity, the resources, and coordination necessary to respond rapidly and comprehensively if faced with a catastrophic event in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. We as mayors would like to give the public these assurances, but first need confirmation in our respective countries that their federal agencies do have adequate resources to respond to a large-scale spill anywhere in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

Therefore, we are requesting an immediate meeting with you to discuss the federal spills contingency plan, prevention and response measures, and whether these will work in practice, on the ground, in the event of a major catastrophe in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.



Please have one of your staff contact the Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, David Ullrich (312 201-4516, david.ullrich@glslcities.org) to arrange a meeting.

Yours Sincerely,

Denis Lapointe  
Mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield  
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

George Heartwell,  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Immediate Past Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago  
Founding US Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



CC:

Environmental Protection Agency

Environment Canada

Ontario Ministry of Environment

Ministère de développement durable, de l'environnement et des parcs

Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

New York Department of Environmental Conservation