



IId.
GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION I – 2008B

URGENT NEED FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT
TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada face some of the most severe economic challenges experienced in either country in over 70 years as the crisis in the financial markets has spilled over into the broader economy and is having a very negative effect on investment and employment in both countries; and

WHEREAS, the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are very concerned about the deepening and spreading effects of the financial crisis in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, which is the industrial heartland of both countries, is experiencing an acute downturn in the manufacturing and resources sectors, including such key areas as automotive production and forestry; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes region is in need of major infrastructure investments related to water, transportation, and education among other areas. Infrastructure investments in these areas have the advantage of quickly stimulating broader economic improvement and creating significant numbers of jobs in the short, mid, and long term; and

WHEREAS, strategically focusing economic stimulus investments on both sides of the border on infrastructure that contributes to environmental sustainability and green jobs could have a transformative effect on the regional economy; and

177 North State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 – (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 553-4355 fax
www.greatlakescities.org

Lynn Peterson, Mayor of Thunder Bay, Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair



WHEREAS, investments related to protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in particular have the added benefit of assuring the long term value of this fresh water resource so critically important to the quality of life and economic well being of the people who live in and visit the region; and

WHEREAS, cities and other units of local government in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region are investing over \$15 billion annually to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence resource, with over \$11 billion in the area of wastewater infrastructure capital improvements and operation and maintenance annually, based on a recent study of 2006 investments; and

WHEREAS, cities are uniquely situated to begin projects quickly, and have been leaders in innovation and creativity in problem solving;

WHEREAS, investments in protection and restoration of the resource by all other orders of government have historically been less than 10% of what local governments are investing; and

WHEREAS, even with the major investments by local governments, the deficit wastewater infrastructure alone is estimated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to be over \$200 billion nationally, with \$73 billion of that deficit occurring in the eight Great Lakes states alone and proportionately similar deficits present in Ontario and Quebec; and

WHEREAS, a study released by the Brookings Institution in 2007 showed that investing about \$26 billion in Great Lakes protection and restoration, would yield a return of 2:1, generating well over \$50 billion in economic improvement and activity;

WHEREAS, the region's economy is bolstered by the unique relationship between Canada and the U.S. which is characterized by the world's longest undefended border; cross-border communities like Detroit-Windsor and Buffalo-Niagara are tightly knit both economically and socially and more than 300,000 people from both countries cross the border everyday to work, shop and visit family and friends, spurring the economic growth of the region;



WHEREAS, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative currently requires all Canadian and U.S. citizens to have a passport to enter the U.S. by air and will require all Canadian and U.S. citizens to have a passport to enter the U.S. by land and water by June 1, 2009; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities initiative calls on the federal governments of Canada and the United States to recognize the urgent need for action to stimulate economic activity in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, and to realize the tremendous benefits of infrastructure investments for job creation, environmental sustainability, and economic improvement in the short, mid, and long term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each community understands what infrastructure needs are the greatest in its area and funding should be provided directly to cities to ensure maximum flexibility in how those funds can be invested; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that among the many needs in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, wastewater infrastructure is very significant, and investment in this area will create jobs and broader economic activity in the short, mid, and long term, while protecting and restoring the largest source of fresh water in the world,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the governments of Canada and the U.S. to direct a significant portion of any economic stimulus funding equivalent towards the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence regional economy, which serves as a national economic driver in both countries, and specifically towards municipal public infrastructure projects with immediate job creation potential.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for a free, open and safe border essential to the economic integration of the region.

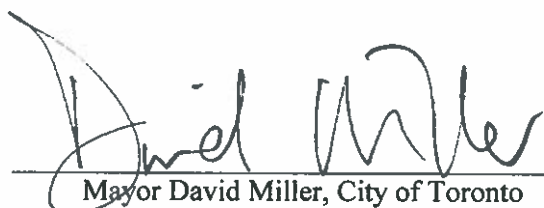


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. and Canadian federal, provincial, and state governments to work with cities and towns to allow for a secure border while facilitating commerce and travel and to develop an inter-governmental task force comprised of local, federal, state and provincial government representatives to address the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and to find an alternative to passports that will not hamper the free flow of travel across a peaceful border.

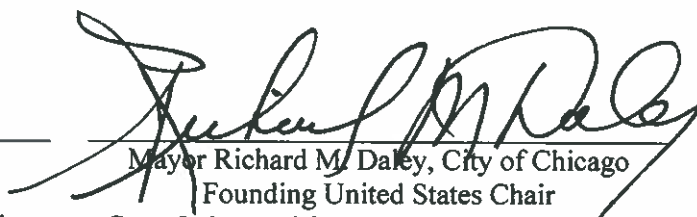
Signed this 12th day of December, 2008



Mayor Lynn Peterson, City of Thunder Bay
Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Mayor David Miller, City of Toronto
Founding Canadian Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



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

177 North State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 553-4355 fax
www.greatlakescities.org

Lynn Peterson, Mayor of Thunder Bay, Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair