

Chicago, July 16, 2004

Resolution # 7

Presented by: **Richard M. DALEY**, Mayor of Chicago, Illinois

AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF MAYORS IN GREAT LAKES POLICY

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence are one of the most essential and most important environmental and economic assets for cities and towns located along and near their shorelines, improving the quality of life for citizens, providing drinking water to over 40 million people, and bringing billions of dollars to local economies from recreation, tourism, fishing, shipping and other activities; and

WHEREAS, mayors of cities and towns make critical decisions everyday that involve or impact the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, such as ensuring safe beaches, managing wastewater discharges, repairing shorelines, conserving water, controlling invasive species, regulating lakefront development and enforcing local water pollution control; and

WHEREAS, the most pressing issues involving the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence are issues that impact cities, towns and the people who reside in or along their shores, such as increased numbers of swimming bans, sewage overflows, stormwater management, shoreline erosion, contaminated harbors, invasive species and impaired water quality; and

WHEREAS, despite the importance of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence to mayors of cities and towns located along their shores, historically such mayors have not had a formal or significant role in the development and implementation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence policy-making and have instead been left to deal with the consequences of decisions of by others; and

WHEREAS, mayors of cities and towns located along and near to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence recognize that long-term protection and restoration of the Great Lakes is absolutely essential to sustain and improve their cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, mayors of cities and towns recognize that real progress toward achieving the long-term protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence cannot wait until some time in the future and instead must begin as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, mayors of cities and towns have a critical and valuable role to play in the development and implementation of future Great Lakes policies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors affirm the importance of mayoral involvement and mayoral participation in Great Lakes policy making and decision making; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors affirm its unrelenting commitment to work towards achieving the long-

term protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence for the benefit of their residents and their local economies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors will continue its efforts to secure formal and significant roles for the mayors in the development and implementation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence policies.

CARRIED