



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT
RESOLUTION 3 – 2019M

**STRENGTHENING THE GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES
AGREEMENT AND THE GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT FOR A
SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY**

WHEREAS, the binational Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement is an agreement between multiple states and provinces adopted to ensure the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Waters and water dependent Natural Resources for future generations, which US states are meeting the agreement's commitments through the Great Lakes Compact; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region will need to sustain and develop its “Blue Economy”, necessary to promote economic growth, attract and retain talent, support water-dependent industries, and sustain a high quality of life in the region; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the Agreement in 2005, variations in climate conditions and cumulative demands that were uncertain at the time have materialized and have been adding increasing pressure on the water resources of the Basin; and

WHEREAS, a strong review of diversion applications, with clear interpretation criteria, transparent public engagement process and diligent implementation, are paramount to the sustainability of the region’s blue economy; and

WHEREAS, despite the need to provide adequate opportunities for public involvement, the current review process of diversion requests allows member states and provinces to bypass this requirement by simply informing constituents of their right to provide comments on the application; and

WHEREAS, even though the conditions for water diversions are decided at the basin level, the states and provinces have primary responsibility for monitoring and enforcing approved diversions, which creates a risk that these parties will act in the best interest of their direct constituents to the detriment of the greater Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin community; and

WHEREAS, the Compact Council has provided itself the discretion to deviate from its own Guidance whenever it deems appropriate, and, by doing so, the Council has significantly weakened the review process; and

WHEREAS, clarity is required to adequately interpret the existing Agreement/Compact, including: (1) the definition of “Reasonable Water Supply Alternative”, (2) the procedures for determining whether a requested diversion will cause a “Significant Adverse Impact” on the waters of the GLSL basin, and (3) the definition of “Service Area”, and definition of “Public Water Supply Purposes”.



NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cities Initiative recognizes the importance of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and of the Great Lakes Compact to sustainably maintain and develop the “Blue Economy” ensuring that businesses, communities and agriculture can leverage our region’s abundant water resources to support strong economies and a high quality of life for 40 million residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cities Initiative calls on the Governors and Premiers of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to upgrade the review process for diversion applications to a level befitting the importance of our water resources which are of critical importance for our constituents’ social, economic and environmental wellbeing;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Cities Initiative calls on its member mayors and all stakeholders around the basin to pursue and intensify their efforts to strengthen the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and the Great Lakes Compact and insure their transparent and stringent implantation, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Signed this 5th day of June 2019

Michelle Morin Doyle
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative