



# COMPASS

A Report from the Council of Great Lakes Governors

DECEMBER 2014

## Co-Chair's Letter

This has been a year of accelerating progress and,



Michigan Governor  
Rick Snyder

now, transition for the Council of Great Lakes Governors. As they prepare to leave office, I would like to thank Governor Quinn and Governor Corbett for their service and shared leadership of the Council.

Governor Quinn has served as Co-Chair since 2011. Working together, we have returned to holding

regular meetings among the Governors and Premiers and revitalized the important work of the Council. It was my pleasure to welcome my colleagues to Mackinac Island in 2013 and I thank Governor Quinn for hosting us this year in Chicago. These meetings brought renewed thoughtfulness and energy to our work, resulting in major achievements including our regional agreement on invasive species and our maritime initiative.

In the New Year, I am eager to build on our work with Governor-elect Rauner and Governor-elect Wolf, along with my other Great Lakes colleagues. In particular, we look forward to meeting in June, 2015 at our leadership summit in Québec City where we will be hosted by Premier Couillard. Our ambitious program will focus on transportation, the environment and tourism, among other themes.

Our region continues to come together with creative new ideas and innovative policies. Moving forward, I welcome the opportunity to continue working with all of you as we push our work in new directions.

—Rick Snyder

Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors  
Governor, State of Michigan

## Maritime Initiative Builds Regional Consensus



A ship enters the Soo Locks. There are approximately 10,000 such lockages each year.  
Photo courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers

The Governors' and Premiers' Maritime Task Force is working with a broad coalition of partners to develop a shared vision for the regional maritime transportation system. In November, the Task Force released a set of draft regional themes to guide future work. These themes are:

- Ensure the region's prosperity by growing the economy and creating jobs through the efficient use of the Great Lakes - Saint Lawrence River maritime system.
- Maintain and continuously improve a world-class regional transportation network with an integrated maritime system.
- Establish a regional framework for achieving shared objectives, launching collaborative initiatives and leveraging funding opportunities for the maritime transportation system.

- Improve the efficiency and competitiveness of maritime transportation and the region's multimodal transportation system by improving dynamic connections with other forms of transportation such as waterways, highways and railways.

- Facilitate regional collaboration in sectors related to maritime transportation including commerce, tourism, ports, natural resources, environment, energy, agriculture and other issues.

- Leverage the maritime transportation system as a sustainable, socially responsible and cost effective enterprise to stimulate regional and international trade.

- Protect the ecosystems of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region through the socially responsible development and utilization of the maritime transportation system.

- Encourage the development of a modern and efficient Great Lakes shipping fleet.

- Maintain and improve the maritime system so as to help mitigate surface transportation congestion and negative environmental and social impacts.

- Expand maritime tourism and cruising opportunities on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system.

In coming months, the Task Force plans to revise and finalize these themes into regional priorities.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

# Council Recruiting Companies for East Africa Trade Mission

The Council is leading a multi-State/Provincial trade mission to Kenya and Tanzania on May 11-16, 2015. The focus of the mission is to assist small to medium sized Great Lakes region companies understand these fast growing markets, and promote U.S. business

interests and export sales. Each trade mission participant will receive a tailored, pre-qualified appointment schedule in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam to meet with agents/distributors and end-users. Mission participants will benefit from a market



briefing, networking events and assistance with logistics.

The East Africa Community (EAC) comprises Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This region is poised to be one of the world's fastest growing global markets over the next 20 years, according to Ernst and Young. Sectors of interest for U.S. and Canadian exporters include mining equipment and consumables, manufacturing machinery, agricultural technology, infrastructural equipment and expertise, as well as other sectors designed to serve an emerging, young middle class. Regional growth of over seven percent per year,

and a globalized business community are propelling the region into a sustained growth phase.

The Council works with the only trade office representing U.S. State interests in the region. The office, located in Dar es Salaam, has extensive experience working with the Council's Southern Africa office as well as local firms.

The Council consulted the U.S. State Department regarding the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Western Africa. This issue is isolated in nature and located several thousand miles away from Kenya and Tanzania. There have been no cases of Ebola in East Africa. EAC countries have relatively few direct travel routes to West Africa compared with the U.S. and Europe. Appropriate precautions are in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all mission participants.

Many of the Council's member States have grant programs available for eligible companies to offset trade mission costs. For more information on the trade mission please visit <http://www.cglg.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/>

Since 2004, the Council has assisted over 240 Great Lakes companies enter 18 foreign markets as part of its successful multi-State/Provincial trade mission program.

# Governors and Premiers Lead Charge Against Invasive Species

On September 9-11, Michigan and Ohio led a joint exercise targeting grass carp in Lake Erie. The Governors' and Premiers' Mutual Aid Agreement was invoked to coordinate this exercise. Participants included staff from Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Ontario, and Pennsylvania, as well as several U.S. and Canadian federal agencies. Michigan State University and Central Michigan University also assisted in the exercise.

Additionally, the Governors and Premiers continue to take action against the "least wanted" aquatic invasive species. In recent months, the States and Provinces have prohibited or restricted fish, plants, and invertebrates that pose a serious threat to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. For example, in November, Michigan prohibited six of the "least wanted" species, including Stone moroko, Zander, Wels catfish, Killer shrimp, Yabby, and Golden mussel.



Photos courtesy of Michigan Department of Natural Resources

## WATER MANAGEMENT

# Compact Council and Regional Body Select New Leadership

On December 9, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) elected the Governor of Illinois to serve as Chair, and elected the Governor of Ohio to serve as Vice-Chair. The Governors will serve in these roles for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) as well. The leadership changes were announced at the organizations' semi-annual meetings held at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation headquarters in Albany. Further information is available at [www.glscompactcouncil.org](http://www.glscompactcouncil.org) and [www.glsregionalbody.org](http://www.glsregionalbody.org). The Council of Great Lakes Governors serves as Secretariat for the Compact Council and Regional Body.



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