



For Immediate Release

October 20, 2017

Contact: David Naftzger

Mobile: 847-863-1679

**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS
UNITED FOR GROWTH**

Windsor, Ontario —The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers gathered today in Windsor, Ontario, for their 2017 Leadership Summit. They have united to help propel the region’s growth and announced a series of bold actions on transportation, trade and tourism.

“Our region’s Governors and Premiers are working together to create a prosperous future for all,” said Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Chair of the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers. “Today, we have taken important steps to advance our region’s economic growth and environmental protection as partners and good neighbors.”

“By working together across the region and across our borders, we are creating exciting opportunities for our people and businesses and building greater prosperity. We are also making sure we balance this economic growth with responsible environmental management so we can protect the health and vitality of our waterways for future generations,” stated Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario.

Governor Snyder and Premier Wynne are jointly hosting the summit from October 20-22 with events in Windsor and Detroit. Joining them is Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. Senior representatives of Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb; Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton; Ohio Governor John Kasich; Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf; and Québec Premier Philippe Couillard are participating on their behalf during the summit’s events.

The Governors and Premiers today announced a series of ambitious actions to grow the region’s \$6 trillion economy and protect the world’s greatest freshwater system. Specific actions include:

- Creating an ambitious initiative to make the region a worldwide center for the development and deployment of connected and autonomous transportation, including ships.
- Opening export promotion offices in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Korea, as well as initiating three joint missions for regional business leaders.
- Launching a U.S. regional tourism marketing program in China, the world’s fastest growing market for tourists to North America.
- Announcing a series of other actions related to transportation, trade, tourism and environmental protection.

The Governors and Premiers continue to collaborate with one another, and with other partners, toward shared goals. Prominent speakers at the summit include:

- Mayor Mike Duggan, City of Detroit
- Ridgway White, President, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Bruce Nierenberg, President and Chief Executive Officer, Victory Cruise Lines
- Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Sugrue, Detroit District Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Serge Le Guellec, President and General Manager, Transport Desgagnés

- John Orr, Senior Vice-President, Southern Region, CN
- John Kwant, Vice President, City Solutions, Ford Motor Company
- Jessica Long, Managing Director, Strategy & Sustainability, Accenture
- Laura Grannemann, Vice President of Strategic Investments at the Quicken Loans Community Investment Fund

The Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers unites the chief executives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec and Wisconsin. The Governors and Premiers work as equal partners to grow the region's \$6 trillion economy and protect the world's largest system of surface fresh water. This partnership builds upon over 30 years of work by the Council of Great Lakes Governors to encourage and facilitate environmentally responsible economic development.

www.gsgp.org

###