

**October 6, 2025**

**Great Lakes St. Lawrence Sustainable Agriculture Initiative**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region is home to more than 110 million people, a \$9.3 trillion (US) regional economy, abundant natural resources including water, forests, and fertile soils and is uniquely positioned to be a center for innovative solutions to sustain and grow the agricultural sector for years to come; and,

**WHEREAS**, the agriculture industry contributes over \$1 trillion (US) to the region's economy and employs over 6.5 million people; and,

**WHEREAS**, agricultural lands account for over 125 million acres and forested land accounts for 740 million acres across the region's States and Provinces; and,

**WHEREAS**, taking action to invest in the region's agricultural industry is critical to sustain agriculture, further grow the region's economy, and improve the quality of life in the region; and,

**WHEREAS**, the agriculture industry faces increasing risks to operate and grow, including less predictable weather and more extreme events, rising production costs, uncertain international markets, an aging farming cohort, loss of available farmland, and decreased labor availability; and,

**WHEREAS**, beginning farmers experience barriers to entering the industry, including high cost of land, high cost of equipment, lack of access to financial resources, technical assistance, and critical infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS**, supply chain uncertainty increases risk for producers interested in expanding or diversifying their operation; and,

**WHEREAS**, public, private, and non-governmental entities have a vested interest in sustaining agriculture into the future and ensuring the production of healthful food, high-quality crops, and other farmed livestock and goods; and,

**WHEREAS**, sustainable agriculture should create social benefits such as a robust and resilient economy, healthier people, and environmental benefits including improved soil health, water quality, and water management; and,

**WHEREAS**, timber, aquaculture, horticulture, and greenhouse grown products are recognized as important agricultural goods.

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence States and Provinces have established programs that recognize the importance and benefits of sustainable agriculture practices.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers hereby create the “Great Lakes St. Lawrence Sustainable Agriculture Initiative” with the goal to foster sustainable agriculture in the region, strengthen the region’s agriculture economy, and increase resilience and food security.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers will meet on an ongoing basis to share information, including learnings, challenges, and opportunities for continued binational collaboration, to ensure the long-term success of the region’s agriculture industry.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers will identify and address data and information needs, with input from the Great Lakes Commission, other governmental agencies, and stakeholders.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers will engage with corporations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and producer-led entities to complete its tasks under the Initiative.

*Adopted by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers on this 6th day of October, 2025.*