



# COMPASS

A REPORT FROM THE GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE GOVERNORS & PREMIERS

JANUARY 2020

## CHAIR'S LETTER

The Governors & Premiers closed 2019 celebrating the more than \$75 million approved by the US federal government for the new Soo lock—the linchpin of the region's maritime system. The action follows a recent trip to Washington, DC, by our senior State officials and industry partners. Attention now turns to the US Army Corps of Engineers to secure needed funds from its work plan and ensure that hands-free mooring technology is included.

We also continue our important work to manage our shared waters. The Regional Body and Compact Council recently adopted a new science strategy to ensure that the best available information and data guides our decision making. The groups also renewed our framework for water conservation and efficiency – an ongoing priority.

Separately, the Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform developed by our team and partners recently launched its website and is now actively recruiting projects. This Platform will help harness finance to better protect our Great Lakes and accelerate progress toward long-term environmental and economic goals.



All together, we continue to see success in our work to protect our environment, grow our economy and create jobs. Thanks for your continuing partnership.

—Tony Evers  
Chair, Great Lakes St. Lawrence  
Governors & Premiers  
Governor, State of Wisconsin

## GREAT LAKES IMPACT INVESTMENT PLATFORM WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform website is now live! The Platform is a new structure to encourage environmentally sustainable economic growth in the Great Lakes States and Provinces. It features various investment products intended to deliver demonstrable impact and revitalize the region's waters, while also aimed to generate competitive, market-based financial returns. The website includes information about participating on the platform, as well profiles of participating and example projects from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Quantified Ventures, and Lyme Timber.

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers thank the following development supporters for their generous funding: US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Fund for Lake Michigan, and the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Project partners include The Nature Conservancy and the University of Michigan Center for Smart Infrastructure Finance.

[www.greatlakesinvestmentplatform.org](http://www.greatlakesinvestmentplatform.org)



GREAT LAKES IMPACT  
INVESTMENT PLATFORM

Prosperity by nature.



## GSGP TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN

Recruitment is now open for GSGP's South Korea and Japan Trade Mission, which will take place from June 1-5, 2020. Benefit from customized B2B meetings to meet with prospective customers and business partners, which is critical to establishing business relationships in the region. Let the GSGP South Korea and Japan Trade Offices save you valuable time and resources, and maximize your results.

- Korea's GDP is currently valued at \$2.09 trillion, ranking 11th in the world and third in East Asia.
- Korea's leaders are looking to technology-intensive industries to drive growth. Industries include healthcare, industrial chemicals, IT components, semiconductor manufacturing, aerospace and defense, energy, environmental technology, and transportation.
- In 2018, bilateral U.S.-Japan trade in goods and services surpassed \$300 billion. U.S. goods to Japan reached \$75.7 billion while service exports totalled \$45.4 billion.
- Top U.S. exports to Japan include civilian aircraft and related parts, industrial machines, natural gas, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and travel and tourism.



Seoul, South Korea

Grant funding is available in many of GSGP's member States to offset trade mission participation and travel costs. For more information on the trade mission please visit [HERE](#).

### MARITIME

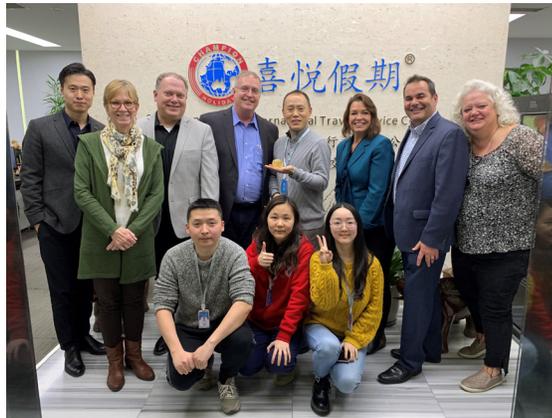
## NEW SOO LOCK GETS NEEDED FUNDING

**At the end of 2019**, the US federal government approved \$75.33 million for the new Soo Lock. Additionally, Congress has directed the US Army Corps of Engineers to allocate additional funds needed to efficiently fund the project and keep the construction on schedule and within budget. The action follows the Governors' call for this funding and the recent trip to Washington, DC, by senior State officials and industry partners.

Altogether, these funds will lay the groundwork for the next major milestone: the construction of the lock chamber. With continued efficient funding, the construction of the new lock could be complete in seven years, saving \$30 million from the estimated project cost. This funding is a major success for the region, and a product of the broad regional coalition that the Governors and Premiers have helped to build with their regional maritime strategy.

# GREAT LAKES USA HOLDS SALES MISSION TO CHINA

**Great Lakes USA held its second annual China Sales Mission.** The delegation made stops in Beijing, Chengdu, and Shanghai. Mission delegates included the State of Illinois; and the cities of Bloomington, Minnesota; Rockford, Illinois; Alton, Illinois; and Springfield, Illinois.



## GSGP BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Staff representing the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers regularly travel around the region and beyond to talk about our work and make connections with partners, stakeholders, and counterparts.

Where We've Been:

- Conservation Finance Roundtable. Chicago, October 3-4
- Soo Locks meetings and briefings for Congressional and agency staff. Washington, DC, October 16-17
- Great Lakes Seaway Partnership Capitol Days. St. Paul, Minnesota, October 21-22
- A Toast to former Governor Tony Earl. Madison, Wisconsin, November 7
- Water Diplomacy: Best Practices in Transboundary Water Co-operation. Strasbourg France, November 12
- GSGP International Trade Mission. Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, November 16-23
- Northwestern University Lifelong Learning Institute. Chicago, Illinois, December 4
- 7th Annual Conservation Finance Investor Conference. New York, New York, January 15



GREAT LAKES  
ST. LAWRENCE  
GOVERNORS  
& PREMIERS

### MEMBERS

Tony Evers,  
Chair, Governor of  
Wisconsin

Mike DeWine,  
Vice Chair, Governor of Ohio

Andrew Cuomo,  
Governor of New York

Doug Ford,  
Premier of Ontario

Eric Holcomb,  
Governor of Indiana

François Legault,  
Premier of Québec

J.B. Pritzker,  
Governor of Illinois

Tim Walz,  
Governor of Minnesota

Gretchen Whitmer,  
Governor of Michigan

Tom Wolf,  
Governor of Pennsylvania

### STAFF

David Naftzger,  
Executive Director

Peter Johnson,  
Deputy Director

Toby McCarrick,  
Executive Director,  
Great Lakes USA

Zoë Munro,  
Program Director

Mike Piskur,  
Program Manager