



COMPASS

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

OCTOBER 2019

CHAIR'S LETTER

At this summer's Leadership Summit, we laid out an ambitious agenda for accelerating the growth of our regional economy while protecting our environment. We are now working hard to turn that agenda into a reality.

Since then, we convened meetings in Washington, DC, to encourage needed funding for a new Soo lock. We also hosted a media event in Chicago with Blount Small Ship Adventures to showcase how tourists can see our region from a unique perspective--by cruise ship!

We continue to grow our network of international relationships. Several of our region's Governors recently joined me in Japan, where GSGP will be leading a trade mission in 2020. Additionally, businesses from the region will travel together to visit Australia, Vietnam, and the Philippines where excellent export opportunities exist for our small and medium sized firms.

Alongside this is our award-winning collaboration to protect our region's waters. An updated science strategy, regional water conservation objectives, and a report on water use are among the important actions that will be showcased at our next Regional Body and Compact Council meetings.



As we plan for our next Leadership Summit in Cleveland in 2021, we celebrate our shared progress and thank you for your continued partnership in our important work.

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

THE NEW SOO LOCK NEEDS EFFICIENT FUNDING



A rendering of the new Soo Lock.
Image courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers

In October, GSGP convened a series of meetings and a Congressional staff briefing in Washington, DC, focused on efficient funding of the new Soo Lock. Meeting participants included representatives from the States and Provinces, industry, ports, and GSGP staff. The US Army Corps of Engineers says that efficient funding would allow savings of \$30 million and accelerate benefits to the users and the nation's economy.

The Soo Locks are a vital component of the nation's infrastructure. They are essential to the movement of the raw materials used by steel producers, automakers, and other major manufacturers in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

This June, the Great Lakes Governors called on Congress to fully fund the construction of a new Soo Lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Efficient funding is now needed to maximize design and construction work each year of the project, thereby saving money and reducing the overall project timeline.



GSGP TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO VIETNAM AND THE PHILIPPINES

GSGP is now recruiting regional companies for a multi-sector trade mission to Vietnam and the Philippines from March 16-March 20, 2020. The delegation will make stops in Ho Chi Minh City and Manila.

Vietnam and the Philippines are two of the fastest growing markets in South East Asia. Sector opportunities include Mining, Energy, Agricultural Products and Equipment, Environmental Technology, and value-added food products.

Participating Great Lakes St. Lawrence companies will receive a customized business itinerary tailored for their company's individual needs along with logistical support and networking events.

Many States offer grant funding opportunities to qualifying small to medium companies to offset the trade mission fees and travel costs. For more information on how to sign up for the Vietnam and the Philippines Trade Mission please click [HERE](#).



Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

WATER MANAGEMENT

COMPACT COUNCIL AND REGIONAL BODY DEVELOPING NEW SCIENCE STRATEGY

The Compact Council and Regional Body are developing a new Science Strategy in collaboration with Tribes, First Nations, Métis Communities in Canada, and key regional stakeholders. This Strategy will help to improve the science that will lead to better, more sustainable management of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Compact Council and Regional Body expect to consider adoption of the new Science Strategy during their public meetings on December 11, 2019. The States and Provinces will also submit their "every five year" water management and water conservation and efficiency program reports at that time.

The December 11 meetings will take place via conference call and will be open to the public. An agenda and participation information will be made available prior to the meetings at www.glsregionalbody.org and www.glscompactcouncil.org.

CRUISING

CRUISE THE GREAT LAKES HOSTS MEDIA EVENT IN CHICAGO

Cruise the Great Lakes organized a media event in Chicago in August. CTGL Chair Dave Lorenz joined representatives of Blount Small Ship Adventures and GSGP to highlight the emerging regional cruise industry. Media participants included the Chicago Tribune, Premiere Travel Media, and Group Travel Directory. The event took place aboard the 84-passenger Grande Mariner in Chicago's Burnham Harbor. Please visit www.cruisethegreatlakes.com for more information on the region's growing cruise opportunities.



TOURISM

GREAT LAKES USA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Great Lakes USA held its annual meeting in Detroit. As part of the program, GLUSA board members toured the city with stops at Hitsville USA, the Shinola flagship store, and the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant Car Museum.



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

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