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GREAT LAKES GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS JUMPSTART REGIONAL ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chicago, Illinois—The Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec gathered today at Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium for the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2014 executive meeting. The meeting’s theme was “*Accelerating Progress*,” following up on 2013’s breakthrough summit on Mackinac Island, Michigan. In Chicago, the Governors and Premiers announced a series of actions to further enhance our region’s competitiveness and better protect our environment.

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Co-Chairs of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, hosted the event and were joined by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. Senior representatives of Indiana Governor Mike Pence; Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton; New York Governor Andrew Cuomo; Ohio Governor John Kasich; Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett; and, Québec Premier Philippe Couillard were also present and participated on their behalf during the meeting’s events.

“The Great lakes are part of our state identities and bring regions and nations together,” Governor Quinn Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair said. “We may come from different shorelines, but challenges go beyond our borders. As leaders of the region, we come together as “champions” for our beloved Great Lakes.”

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair, said “Our meeting on Mackinac Island last year set the stage for the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers to better work together for the benefit of all our citizens. We are accelerating our progress with this meeting in Chicago, and look forward to continuing to work across borders to advance our region as a whole.”

Specifically, the Governors and Premiers announced a series of ambitious actions including:

- Launching a comprehensive strategy to improve the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River maritime transport system and better integrate it into the multi-modal transportation system;
- Creating an investment initiative to attract Chinese and other foreign investment to manufacturing in the Great Lakes region;
- Signing a mutual aid agreement to combat the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species, including the Asian carp;

- Taking executives from regional small and medium sized businesses to four exciting markets, including east Africa, eastern Europe, Mexico and Québec; and,
- Improving water monitoring across the Basin.

The Governors and Premiers continue to work collaboratively with one another, and with other partners, toward their shared goals. During the meeting, a number of leaders spoke about how to collaboratively “accelerate progress” including:

- The Honorable Hank Paulson, former U.S. Treasury Secretary and Chairman of The Paulson Institute;
- The Honorable Lisa Raitt, Canadian Minister of Transport;
- The Honorable Gary Doer, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.;
- The Honorable Bruce Heyman, United States Ambassador to Canada;
- David Jacobson, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada and Vice Chair, BMO Capital Markets;
- Ellen Alberding, President, The Joyce Foundation;
- Mark Pathy, President and Co-CEO, Fednav; and,
- Ted Beattie, President and CEO of the Shedd Aquarium.

The Council of Great Lakes Governors is a non-partisan partnership of the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In 1983, the region’s Governors joined forces to create the Council and tackle the severe environmental and economic challenges then facing the citizens of their States. In more recent years, the Premiers of Ontario and Québec have joined with the Governors in advancing the high performance economy of the entire region. More information on the Council and the 2014 executive meeting can be found on the Council’s website at www.cglg.org

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