



GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COLLABORATION RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Great Lakes represent a natural resource of inestimable value to the region and the nation, insofar as they contain approximately 20 percent of the fresh surface water on the planet; anchor vital economies in agriculture, manufacturing, shipping, and tourism; provide drinking water for tens of millions of people; support the historical identity and life ways of 35 federally recognized Tribal Nations in their ancestral homelands; and provide habitat for diverse plant, animal and aquatic species; and

Whereas, the Governors of the Great Lakes States identified priorities for restoring and protecting the Great Lakes, supported by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the Great Lakes Commission, and other entities committed to the preservation of the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13340 on May 18, 2004, acknowledging the national significance of the Great Lakes and helping establish a "Great Lakes Regional Collaboration," which was convened in Chicago, Illinois, on December 3, 2004, by conveners representing the federal government, the Great Lakes States, the Great Lakes cities, the Tribes and the Region's Congressional delegation; and

Whereas, some 1,500 people from throughout the Great Lakes Basin participated on eight strategy teams to develop the recommendations that form the basis of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, the Collaboration solicited comments from the general public on the draft Strategy, which evidenced broad support for the work of the strategy teams; and

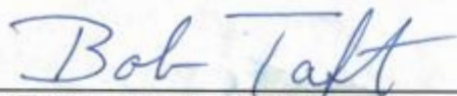
Whereas, we recognize that the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes, which represents the work of many governments, organizations and individuals with expertise in Great Lakes issues, will guide future efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, while all of the Collaboration partners face budgetary constraints and restoration of the Great Lakes will necessarily occur over a number of years, it is vital that definitive action commence in the near term to begin to advance the goals of the Collaboration; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we affirm our commitment to move the Collaboration process forward by working together toward implementation of near term actions as well as other future actions to ensure a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem for generations to come; and

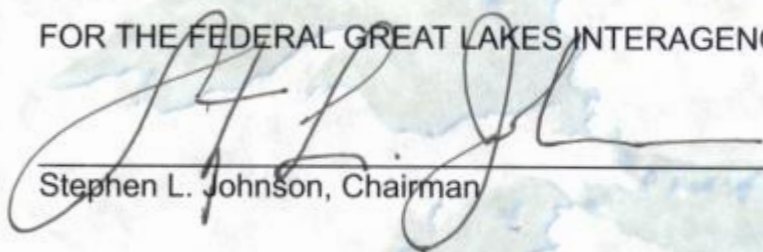
Be it further resolved that we hereby pledge our continued support for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, consistent with laws applicable to our respective jurisdictions, and resolve to support efforts underway to further protect and restore the Great Lakes through the Collaboration process.

Signed in CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ON DECEMBER 12, 2005:



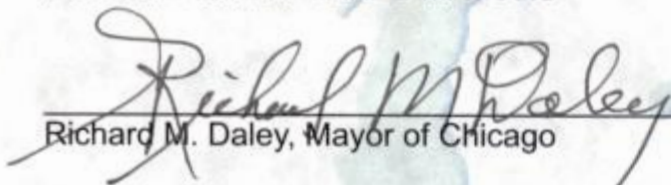
Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio

FOR THE FEDERAL GREAT LAKES INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE



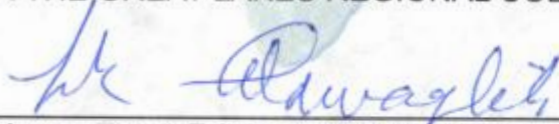
Stephen L. Johnson, Chairman

FOR THE GREAT LAKES MAYORS



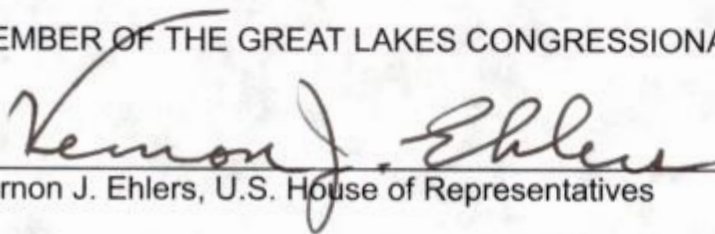
Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago

FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COLLABORATION TRIBAL CAUCUS



Chairman Frank Ettawageshik, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

MEMBER OF THE GREAT LAKES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION



Vernon J. Ehlers, U.S. House of Representatives