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GREAT LAKES GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS SET NEW AGENDA

Mackinac Island, Michigan—The Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec gathered today at the Grand Hotel for the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit to set a new collaborative agenda for the region. The Leadership Summit's theme, *“Strengthening Our Economy and Protecting Our Great Lakes,”* included a particular focus on trade, transportation and water.

At the Summit, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers united to work together to enhance our region's competitiveness in the global economy. They also took steps that will lead to managing our shared water supplies more sustainably, combat aquatic invasive species and enhance water safety. Additionally, the Summit included the semi-annual meetings of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body. These organizations were formed after the last Summit of the Council of Great Lakes Governors and are the result of the historic Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

The Governors and Premier in attendance included:

- Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair
- Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair
- Indiana Governor Mike Pence
- Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker
- Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne

Representatives of the Governors of Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton; New York Governor Andrew Cuomo; Ohio Governor John Kasich; Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett; and, Québec Premier Pauline Marois were also present and participated on their behalf during the Summit's events.

“The Governors and Premiers last gathered here on Mackinac Island thirty years ago to set an agenda that we still follow in 2013. At this Summit, we have charted a new course for the next three decades,” said Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair. “We are seizing this momentous opportunity to build on our enormous success to date to renew our ongoing framework for regional collaboration.”

During the course of the Summit, the Governors and Premiers addressed the following issues, setting the agenda for both the organization and the region:

- Created a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Maritime Initiative, which will look to improve the region's maritime transportation system and better integrate it into the broader transportation system in the region, across the two countries of the U.S. and Canada, and the world;
- Building on the success of the over 20-year, multi-state export promotion program, adopted a resolution calling for expanded international trade and export opportunities;
- Launched the "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Partnership" as a tool to collectively advance the region's "blue economy" companies, and market them to the world;
- Identified a "least wanted list" of aquatic invasive species, and pledged to harmonize regulatory efforts to fight this ongoing scourge that threatens the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin;
- Promoted economic cooperation between Canada and the United States;
- Created beach safety awareness week and announced the creation of an "app" to help improve water safety for swimmers and other recreational users;
- Fostered the improvement of water quality by calling on the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada to address the problem of nutrient enrichment and harmful algal blooms; and,
- Initiated steps to better coordinate regional efforts to monitor water quality and quantity in the Basin to promote more effective policy.

Speaking before an audience of over 150 leaders from across the region, the Governors and Premiers were joined by the following individuals who spoke on how to strengthen the region's economy and protect our waters:

- U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood delivered the keynote address, "Enhancing Regional Transportation and Ports".
- The Honorable Gary Doer, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.
- The Honorable David Jacobson, U.S. Ambassador to Canada
- Dave Kepler, Executive Vice President of Business Services, Chief Sustainability Officer & Chief Information Officer, The Dow Chemical Company
- Mario Longhi, Chief Operating Officer, United States Steel Corporation
- Mark Tercek, President & CEO, The Nature Conservancy
- William Ford, Executive Chairman, the Ford Motor Company.

"The Governors and Premier have taken a number of bold steps to protect the natural environment, ensure the safety of people who want to enjoy the lakes, and create new economic opportunities so that we can better work together to compete with the world," Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair, said.

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. Copies of the resolutions adopted at the Leadership Summit can be found on the Council's website at www.cglg.org. A webstreamed archive of the meeting's events will be made available in the coming weeks.

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