



Interstate Compacts

Presentation by:
Mike McCabe
Director, Midwestern Office
The Council of State Governments

*2007 Semiannual Meeting of the
Great Lakes Commission
May 15, 2007*



Interstate Compacts- Overview

- **Constitutionally sanctioned tool for interstate cooperation (Art. I, § 10)**
- **Principal advantage: Provides states with an effective and enforceable means of cooperating without relinquishing authority to the federal government**



Interstate Compacts- Overview

- **Contracts between States**
- **Force and effect of statutory law**
- **Precedence over conflicting state laws**
- **Enforceable against their members**



Interstate Compacts- History and Use

- **Use pre-dates constitution**
- **>200 on the books today**
- **Variations by scope: bi-state, regional, national**
- **Variety of types: fixed, advisory, regulatory**



Interstate Compacts- Key Characteristics

- **What they have in common: formal, legally binding relationship between states**
- **States retain sovereignty- “Collective sovereignty”**
- **Interstate uniformity without loss of control**



Interstate Compacts- Examples

- **Great Lakes Basin Compact**
- **Delaware and Susquehanna River Basin Compacts**
- **Others: Health, transportation, criminal justice, education, natural resources, taxation, etc.**



Interstate Compacts- Process

- **Contractual requirements**
- **Identical language**
- **Congressional consent (transformative effect)**



For further information:

**Mike McCabe, Director
CSG Midwestern Office**

630/925-1922

mmccabe@csq.org