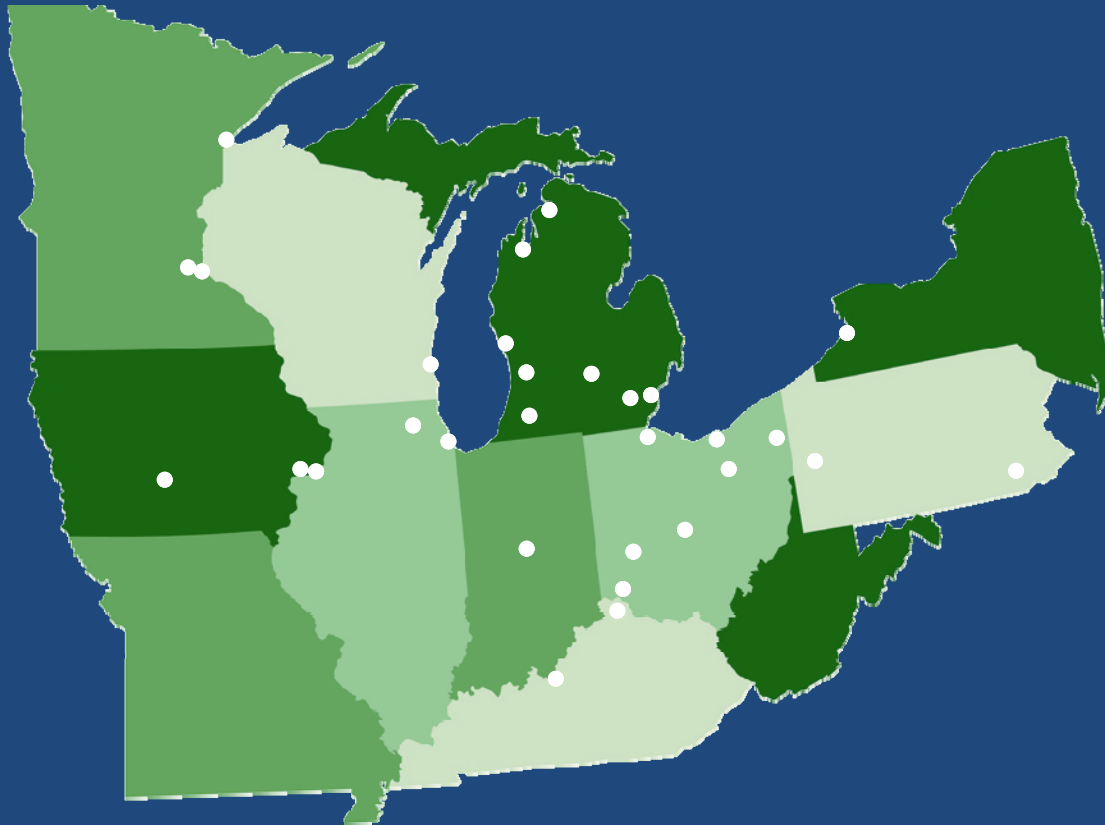


# Blue Water Economy: Leveraging the Great Lakes to Advance Economic Recovery

A presentation by Joe Roman, president  
and CEO, Greater Cleveland Partnership

# Who We Are



- Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce
- Allegheny Conference
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
- Columbus Chamber of Commerce
- Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
- DavenportOne
- Detroit Regional Chamber
- Duluth Chamber of Commerce
- Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Cleveland Partnership
- Greater Des Moines Partnership
- Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Louisville, Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce
- Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
- Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Northwest Michigan Regional Chamber Alliance
- Rockford Chamber of Commerce
- Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
- Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
- Youngstown/Warren Chamber of Commerce

# Great Lakes Metro Chambers Agenda

1. Federal Transportation & Infrastructure Policy
2. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Border with Canada
3. Investment in the Great Lakes to Transform our Economic Region
4. Great Lakes Innovation Strategy
5. Federal Immigration Policy

# Economic Impact of the Great Lakes Region

- The 12-state region plus Ontario and Quebec comprise the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economy in the world.
  - Combined population = 36% of the population of both countries.
  - Canada and the United States have one of the world's largest investment relationships.
    - U.S. is Canada's largest foreign investors
    - Canada is 7<sup>th</sup> largest foreign investor in the U.S.
    - Canadians invest \$US 165 billion in U.S.
    - U.S. invests \$228 billion in Canada

# Fresh water is the next “oil” for our international economy

- The Great Lakes are the largest fresh water repository on Earth.
- Demand for freshwater technology is a \$400 billion per year global business.
- Fresh water is an asset not found in other parts of the nation.

# We have Great Strength in Congress

- Match the 12 Great Lakes states with leadership in the House and Senate – power.
- Need to recognize and act on our strengths.