



RESOLUTION
Adopted July 27, 2016

Maintaining safe and sustainable drinking water and infrastructure in the Great Lakes Basin

Whereas, more than 48 million Americans and Canadians depend on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River for drinking water, recreation, manufacturing of products, power generation, commercial fishing and maritime navigation, among other benefits; and

Whereas, public water supply and safe drinking water are assets that citizens and communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region depend on and that are fundamental to health and the viability of our economy; and

Whereas, the recent events in Flint, Michigan, have raised awareness in our two countries of the consequences and risks from aging infrastructure; and

Whereas, the American Society of Civil Engineers, in their most recent infrastructure report card, gave U.S. drinking water infrastructure a grade of D, and no graded Great Lakes state a grade better than C; and

Whereas, U.S. EPA data show that at least [\\$384 billion in improvements](#) will be needed through 2030 to maintain, upgrade and replace drinking water infrastructure and these costs will grow if needed investments are delayed; and

Whereas, investments in the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative have yielded significant environmental and economic benefits to the Great Lakes and there exist similar opportunities for focused investment in the region's water infrastructure; and

Whereas, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River regional governors, premiers and leaders have proposed and are moving forward with state and provincial programs to address water infrastructure needs and challenges, including the challenge of lead contamination in drinking water; and

Whereas, the presence of lead in some of the drinking water infrastructure, service lines, piping and plumbing can pose health concerns to residents of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin; and

Whereas, the current U.S. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for lead in drinking water is zero but the Action Level for public water systems, which was established in 1991, is 15 parts per billion in more than 10 percent of homes sampled and the Maximum Acceptable Concentration for lead set by Health Canada for drinking water is 10 parts per billion; and

Whereas, on December 15, 2015 the National Drinking Water Advisory Council provided extensive recommendations to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for long-term revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission initiate the formation of a working group to advise the staff in the preparation of a report on the state of drinking water infrastructure in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin and to make recommendations for future Great Lakes Commission activities to address these needs; and that this working group will address topics that include:

- Exploration of options to provide information services, perhaps in conjunction with the Blue Accounting Initiative, to GLC member jurisdictions and other audiences on the status of drinking water infrastructure, progress toward improving it, risks and consequences to businesses and people, and such other information services as may be beneficial to its members; and
- Exploration and assessment of opportunities to raise awareness of the fundamental value of water and the infrastructure supplying it, and the scope and depth of the financial challenge facing this region's governments to meet its infrastructure needs; and
- Exploration and assessment of options for financing strategies that could be employed by Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region jurisdictions and their municipalities to maintain and improve drinking water infrastructure assets; and
- Make recommendations for further action at future meetings of the Great Lakes Commission.

Be it Further Resolved that the Great Lakes Commission calls on U.S. EPA to expedite long-term revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule; addressing the recommendations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council; and

Be It Finally Resolved that the Great Lakes Commission calls on federal and provincial authorities in Canada to reassess the risk presented by lead in drinking water, the adequacy of the Maximum Acceptable Concentration level, and determine measures needed to minimize exposure.