



**Committee of Advisors
to the
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



**A RESOLUTION URGING THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE GREAT LAKES
RESTORATION INITIATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY ACTION IN CANADA**

WHEREAS, the institution of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has led to the funding of programs that have contributed to the health and well-being of Great Lakes ecosystems and the residents of both the United States and Canada Great Lakes states and province;

WHEREAS, the fisheries of both the United States and Canada have benefited from Great Lakes Restoration Initiative programs that have restored habitat, reduced non-point source pollution, and removed contaminants from the Great Lakes watershed;

WHEREAS, current Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding is dependent on the decision by the current elected President of the United States to include or not include it in his budget request to Congress;

WHEREAS, the current Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding request in the 2015 budget sent by the President to Congress has been reduced by \$60 million dollars from the previous years' budget, showing the fragile nature of such requests;

WHEREAS, legislation has previously been introduced in both the U.S. Senate, S504, and the U.S. House of Representatives, HR223, to legislate the permanent existence of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and include it as a standard line item in all future budgets;

WHEREAS, the legislation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative would lead to its permanent institution as a budgeted program;

WHEREAS, Ontario has reintroduced the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015, intended to restore the ecological health of the lakes and enable public involvement in the same, and both Ontario and Canada have agreed in 2014 to future collaboration on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, without funding commitment comparable to the GLRI;

WHEREAS, current government-led restoration initiatives in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes are limited to single agencies, and lack sufficient funding, coordination and prioritization to be comparable to the GLRI; and

WHEREAS, significant work to restore and improve the Great Lakes habitat would have further beneficial impact on the health and productivity of the Great Lakes fishery.

The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the binational committee of advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urges the U.S. Government to fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at a level of at least \$475 million USD annually.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the binational committee of advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call upon the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to make members of the United States senate and congress aware of the advisors' desire that legislation permanently establishing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as a funded program be brought to a vote with the intent of bringing into law.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the binational committee of advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission urges Canada and Ontario to fund on an ongoing basis a targeted, strategic, and coordinated initiative to support restoration activities in the Great Lakes.

Passed unanimously by U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors
June 10, 2015

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