

Chair's Letter

Without question, aquatic invasive species have become one of the greatest threats to the Great Lakes. In 2005, my fellow Great Lakes Governors joined me in calling on Congress to enact comprehensive Federal legislation to tackle this problem. Unfortunately, since that time Congress has been unable to pass the necessary legislation and the problem has worsened despite many bold steps taken by State governments.



Wisconsin Governor
Jim Doyle

Congressional action is long overdue. While State and regional actions against aquatic invasive species remain critical to establishing a complete and protective framework, a coordinated and comprehensive national approach is the only long-term means of stopping new invasive species from penetrating the Great Lakes.

In July 2007, as Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, I renewed our action call to Congress. Over the past several weeks, we have made significant progress in bringing divergent interests together. However, serious concerns remain. I am encouraged by our progress but concerned that time is short to complete our work.

The Great Lakes Governors have re-doubled our efforts to reach consensus on outstanding issues. We again call on Congress to join us in creating a national framework that truly protects our economy and our nation's waters from the harmful effects of aquatic invasive species.

—Jim Doyle
*Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Wisconsin*



Photo courtesy of Virginia Schlichter

Illinois Ratifies Compact

On August 17, the State of Illinois became the second of the eight Great Lakes States to ratify the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact when Illinois Governor Blagojevich signed compact ratification legislation into law. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty was the first Governor to ratify the compact when he signed the compact into law earlier this year.

To become law in the States, the interstate compact must be approved by each of the State legislatures and Congress must give its consent. Ontario and Québec have separate processes to implement the agreement into Provincial law. No federal legislation is required in Canada.

Swift progress is being made across the region to turn the compact into law. Both the New York Assembly and Senate have passed legislation ratifying the compact, and bills are pending in Indiana, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania. Action is anticipated in coming months in the other States.

“Today, we have taken an important step to protect Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes,” Governor Blagojevich said. “I commend members of the General Assembly, in particular, Representative Harry Osterman and Senator John (Continued on page 4)

Canada Trade Office Leads Great Lakes Companies to New Partnerships

Great Lakes exporters recently explored new opportunities at GO expo, Canada's premier gas and oil exhibition. The Council of Great Lakes Governors' Canada Trade Office worked with 14 Pennsylvania and Wisconsin companies to make the June 2007 event in Calgary, Alberta a success.

The Canada Trade office helped each company arrange a series of meetings with potential customers and pre-qualified agents as well as distributors and engineering procurement companies.

Additionally, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hosted a six-booth pavilion at the show which drew much attention.

The show resulted in several successes, including one company's reported sale of \$140,000. Another company signed a distributor agreement as a result of an introduction by the Canada Trade Office. Additionally, each of the participating companies is in continuing discussions with prospective partners met at the show.

The GO expo is held every two years, and this year's event included nearly 20,000 visitors and exhibitors. The event provided an opportunity for small and medium-sized companies to showcase their latest technologies, products and services. Among the products featured at the expo were drilling rigs, cranes, diesel engines, engineering services, software, hardware, telecommunications, human resources and educational services.

The Province of Alberta is currently a booming market due to its oil sands and natural gas reserves, which are second in volume to Saudi Arabia. While the market is strong, there are also signs of strain due to a lack of infrastructure and human resources which can result in hindered growth.

Face-to-face meetings are important to Alberta companies. Many mission participants found that they benefited from visiting the market for meetings instead of relying solely on phone and e-mail communication.

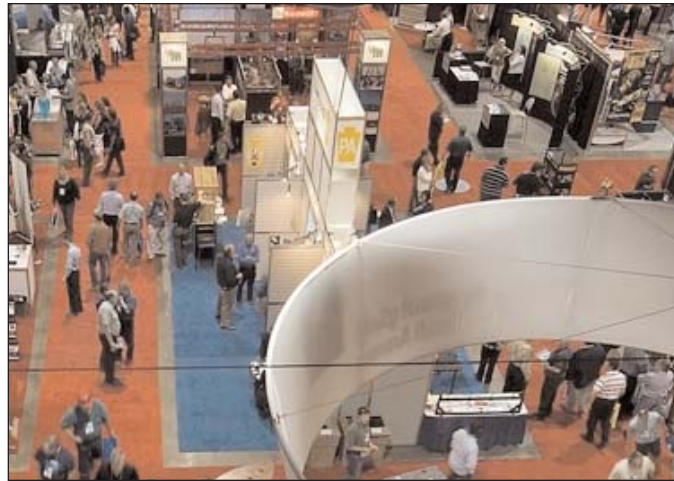
Plans are already in place for the Global Petroleum Show in Calgary in June 2008, which is expected to draw 50,000-60,000

participants from around the globe. The Global

Petroleum Show will also provide Great Lakes exporters with an opportunity to make contacts and sales within the international oil and gas community.

Since 1990 the Canada Trade Office has assisted small and medium sized Great Lakes companies in exporting to the Canadian market. The Canada Trade Office offers agent/distributor and end user searches, market research, in-country appointment setting, trade show support and representation, and other services which are customized to meet the individual needs of each company.

For additional information on Canadian trade activities or to stay informed about the Global Petroleum Show 2008, please visit www.cglg-canada.com.



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pavillion stands out at the recent GO Expo in Calgary, Alberta. Photo courtesy of GO Expo 2007.

The Council of Great Lakes Governors is leading a trade mission to Argentina, Brazil and Chile from April 19-29, 2008. For more information, please visit www.cglg.org or phone Ms. Zoë Munro at 312-407-0177.



GREAT LAKES OF NORTH AMERICA



For the first time, the Great Lakes of North America Annual Meeting was held in Philadelphia, during the week of July 9. The Annual Meeting was combined with a familiarization tour of Philadelphia and the surrounding area for the State representatives and GLNA staff. Shown here in front of the Hall of Independence (left to right) are Jan Kostner, Illinois State Travel Director and GLNA Chairperson; Toby McCarrick, GLNA Executive Director; and Terese Balzereit, Pennsylvania Director International Marketing Tourism and Chairperson of the GLNA Marketing Committee.

New Tool Predicts Biomass Potential

The Great Lakes Biomass State and Regional Partnership is part of the National Biomass Partnership, a collaboration of five regional biomass energy programs encompassing all 50 States, two U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. This Partnership undertakes activities with a national significance and is guided by a committee comprising the representatives of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, other regional Governors' organizations, State executive branch officials and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO).

Recently the National Biomass Partnership responded to a request from the United States House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture by commissioning The Antares Group to develop a tool for estimating biofuel, ethanol and biodiesel production. The result was a spreadsheet that can help explain the potential for the production of biofuels.

The spreadsheet is a useful tool for estimating the biofuels production potential for both ethanol and

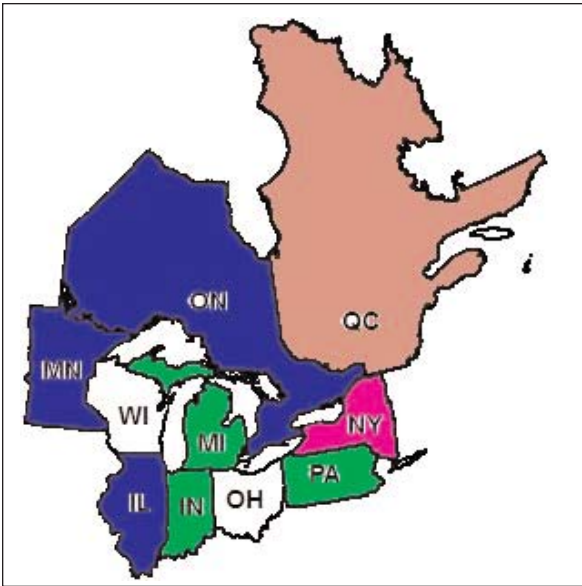
biodiesel from a number of different feedstocks. The ethanol component examines the potential from corn and several cellulosic feedstocks including switchgrass, corn stover, wood waste, and energy crops.

Additionally, the spreadsheet can also be used to estimate biodiesel potential from soybean oil and several types of waste grease. The spreadsheet is limited in that it does not include small grains like barley or wheat and it excludes other oil seed crops. It allows users to select a State, region, or grouping of States to automatically generate results both graphically and in table format.

With the ever-increasing importance of the development of alternative fuels, this tool will assist States in planning for the growth of the biofuels industry.

The U.S. Biofuels Production Potential spreadsheet is available on line at <http://www.nrbp.org/updates/2007-08/default.htm>

For more information on the GLBSRP, visit <http://cglg.org/biomass/index.asp>



**MN, ON,
IL**

Enacted into law

QC

Approved by
National Assembly

NY

Passed Two
Chambers

**IN, MI,
PA**

Active Bill

**Council of Great
Lakes Governors
Board of Directors**

Jim Doyle, Chair,
*Governor of
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Eliot Spitzer,
*Governor of New
York*

Ted Strickland,
Governor of Ohio

(Continued from page 1) Cullerton for their leadership on this issue of regional, national and global importance. I would also like to thank Mayor Richard M. Daley for the City of Chicago’s support throughout the compact development and approval process.”

“I applaud Governor Blagojevich and the State of Illinois for this action. Now that our neighboring States of Illinois and Minnesota have adopted the Compact, it is time for Wisconsin to take the necessary steps to protect our precious resource—the Great Lakes.” said Wisconsin Governor and Council Chair Jim Doyle.

Further information on the Compact, including legislative status, can be found at <http://www.cglg.org/projects/water/CompactImplementation.asp>

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Governors Demand Congressional Action to Protect the Lakes

On July 17, Council Chair Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle on behalf of the Great Lakes Governors sent a letter to Members of Congress encouraging Congressional action to curb the flow of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into our nation’s waters, and particularly, into the Great Lakes.

In the letter, Governor Doyle said, “The magnitude of this problem requires swift and strong legislation.”

The Governors again called for comprehensive AIS legislation including

an environmentally protective ballast water discharge standard for ocean-going vessels that includes the ultimate goal of zero discharge of viable organisms.

Governor Doyle said, “The challenges to adopting comprehensive federal AIS legislation must be overcome.”

The Governors’ letter included a series of specific recommendations to ensure that final legislation is effective in tackling AIS.

For the full text of the letter and additional information, please visit <http://cglg.org/projects/ais/index.asp>