



## Chair's Letter

First, I'd like to thank my Co-Chair, Ohio Governor Bob Taft, for his leadership of the Council over the past several years. Much has been achieved and, working together, we can accomplish even more.



Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle

The last three months have been an incredible time for our region. The Council has continued to be at the forefront of efforts to protect our Lakes while growing our regional economy.

Since the draft Annex implementing agreements were released in July, we have received over 10,000 public comments and held over 30 public meetings. Renewed interest has been generated in our quest to update the way the Great Lakes are managed.

Progress is also being made in our broader efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Recently, we successfully secured funding to construct a permanent Asian carp barrier in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal. And, on December 3, we will join members of the President's Cabinet as well as the region's Congressional delegation, Mayors, Tribal leaders and others to kick off the one-year development of a comprehensive strategy for Great Lakes protection and restoration.

On another front, the Council has been spearheading export promotion from our region. I recently led a delegation of small and medium sized companies to the Council's offices in China. And, in October, 18 companies from five States took part in a similar Council-led mission to Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

I'm excited about what we have accomplished. During the coming years, I look forward to partnering with you to advance our high-performance agenda.

—Jim Doyle

*Co-Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors  
Governor, State of Wisconsin*



Devil's Lake, Wisconsin

## Regional Collaboration Set to Kick Off

On December 3, the Great Lakes Governors will join members of the President's Cabinet and Congress as well as Mayors, Tribal leaders and others in Chicago. There, they will launch the one-year development of a comprehensive strategy to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

In order to lay the foundation for this ambitious undertaking, representatives will sign the "Great Lakes Declaration" and pledge their support for the framework that will be used to create the new strategy. The Governors' priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection, which have recently been adopted by the region's Mayors through the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, will serve as the organizing principle for this effort.

"It is only by coming together as a region that we can ensure that the Great Lakes are protected and restored for future generations," said Governor Taft, Council Co-Chair.

Council Co-Chair Governor Doyle added, "Tremendous strides have been made but we must re-double our efforts to protect, preserve, restore and improve the Great Lakes and its ecosystem."

Momentum for Great Lakes restoration and protection is building, and the region's Governors continue to lead the charge.

# Council Leads Trade Mission to Argentina, Brazil and Chile



*Mission participants gather in Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

The Council led a successful trade mission to Buenos Aires, Argentina; São Paulo, Brazil; and, Santiago, Chile from October 24-29. Eighteen small and medium sized companies took part in this mission geared to identify and secure export opportunities from the Great Lakes region to South America.

Participants hailed from Indiana, New York, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin—representing a wide variety of business sectors including medical equipment, environmental control, packaging

and industrial machinery.

Council staff and State economic development officials accompanied the group, working in partnership with the Council's shared trade offices in each country. This team provided mission participants with customized agent/distributor searches and arranged one-on-one meetings with potential buyers and business partners.

In addition to making important business contacts, participants met with key government officials including the U.S. Ambassador to

Argentina and senior staff from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

These meetings focused on current economic and political conditions in order to prepare the companies to do business in the South American market.

Participants reported making many new contacts with potential partners, distributors and buyers.

Morrice Blackwell, Application Engineering Manager for Badger Meter, said of the mission, "The meetings that were put together for us were of great value to our future business in South America."



## **Mission Delegates included:**

Addison-Clifton, LLC; Badger Meter; Biocube, Inc.; Dai Shin Technologies, Inc.; Exair Corporation; Fredrickson & Byron; Gilchrist & Soames; Graphic Controls, LLC; Hypoguard USA, Inc.; Magnum Products, LLC; MLS Systems; Padco Companies, Inc.; Proquip, Inc.; Safway Services, Inc.; Spiel Associates, Inc.; Sun America Packaging Group; Taylor Corporation; and, Weinbrenner Shoe Company.

# Cruising the Great Lakes

By: Toby McCarrick

The recent docking of the cruise ship *MS Columbus* was a sight to behold with charming downtown Duluth as its backdrop. But, an even better sight was the 200-plus German passengers disembarking to go sightseeing, shopping, touring, and of course eating their way through Duluth. Because, what does that mean? You got it...a tourist experience to remember and needed \$\$\$\$\$ for the local economy!

Cruises on the Great Lakes provide a unique experience—differentiating our region from the competition. Cruising is also a valuable economic engine for our port cities. For example, the City of Duluth conservatively estimates that the *MS Columbus*'s past three visits generated over



\$250,000 in revenue.

The *MS Columbus* has four cruises scheduled on the Great Lakes in 2005. An additional cruise will begin in Toronto and end in Philadelphia. Other ships that offer cruises on the Great Lakes include the *Grand Caribe*, the *Grand Mariner*, the *Le Levant*, the *Nantucket Clipper*, the *Niagara Prince* and the *Orion*.

To learn more about marketing Great Lakes cruises in your State or Province, contact Toby McCarrick, Executive Director of the Great Lakes of North America (GLNA).

Photos: Toby McCarrick and Cheryl Offerman (*Explore Minnesota*) tour the *MS Columbus*.

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## States Lead on Bioenergy Innovation

A major initiative of the Great Lakes Biomass State and Regional Partnership (GLBSRP) is a program of grants to member States. Every year, each member State uses GLBSRP funds to undertake a variety of outreach, education, demonstration, planning and implementation projects. Often the State will issue a request for proposals to universities and organizations to develop these projects.

For example, the Michigan Biomass Energy Program which is part of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth recently provided a sub-grant to Kettering University based in Flint,

Michigan. The university developed a Web site titled "What Does Ethanol Do for My Engine?"

Data on the site is based on Kettering's years of research into high-blend ethanol in both on- and off-road vehicles. Emissions, performance and material compatibility are some of the topics discussed on the site which can be accessed at <http://ethanolfacts.kettering.edu>. Of particular interest is the site's special emphasis on the use of ethanol in snowmobiles.

Another example is a recent grant made by the Iowa Biomass Energy Program (IBEP), which is housed in the Department of Natural Resources. The IBEP has

been involved in a number of projects to promote and market the use of methane derived from on-farm anaerobic digestion of manure. One of these projects coordinates the Audubon County Economic Development Corporation, State agencies and stakeholders to develop a community-based manure digester. Audubon County has the second largest concentration of swine in Iowa, and the county seeks to use the digester as an energy resource and to address environmental concerns.

For more information on these projects and others, please contact Fred Kuzel with the GLBSRP staff.

# Governors Halt Asian Carp

October 13, 2004, will be remembered as a great day for the Great Lakes. On this day, Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones joined national and regional leaders in Chicago to announce a major step in keeping the Great Lakes safe from Asian carp.

On behalf of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, Jones shared the good news that a combination of State and Federal funds had been secured to allow construction of an Asian carp barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. This barrier is designed to prevent the voracious Asian carp and other invasive species from entering the Great Lakes.

Ohio Governor Bob Taft, Council Co-Chair, said, "Members of Congress have joined us in recognizing the grave threat posed by invasive species such as



(From left): EPA Administrator Leavitt, Illinois DNR Director Joel Brunsvold and Ohio EPA Director Chris Jones on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Asian carp, which could lead to overwhelming economic and ecological losses for the Great Lakes States."

"It is through a joint effort of the Great Lakes Governors, the Great Lakes Congressional delegation, and with the support of the Administration that we have been able to achieve our goals," added Wisconsin

Governor Jim Doyle, Council Co-Chair.

The Great Lakes Governors continue to spearhead efforts to stop the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species such as the Asian carp—one of the Governors' priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection. Toward this end, the Governors have called for reauthorization of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) and continue to work with members of Congress to secure its passage.

## Public Speaks on Draft Water Agreements

Over 10,000 comments. More than 30 public meetings attended by hundreds of people. Some 200 features in the region's newspapers, magazines and on radio. These are just a few illustrations of the overwhelming interest in the Council's efforts to make historic advancements in the way the Great Lakes are managed.

During the recent 90-day public comment period, the public weighed in on the draft Annex 2001 implementing agreements. These drafts were developed



Assistant Deputy Minister David de Launay of the Ontario MNR speaks at the September 20 Toronto public meeting.

over the past three years by the Governors' and Premiers' Working Group in collaboration with stakeholders and technical experts. The input has been incredibly valuable and reinforces the broadly held desire to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

The public comments are now being reviewed and considered for incorporation into the final Annex implementing agreements. The Working Group's goal is to present revised agreements to the Governors and Premiers in spring 2005.

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