

**61st Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of The Council of State Governments**

Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois

August 20-23, 2006

**Resolution on the
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin
Water Resources Compact**

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are the world's largest resource of fresh water, containing approximately 20 percent of the fresh surface water on the planet; and

WHEREAS, fresh water is relatively limited in quantity and is highly vulnerable to contamination; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provide drinking water to tens of millions of people in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provide a vital habitat for a diverse collection of plant, animal and aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are vital to key industries in the Midwest such as agriculture, manufacturing, shipping and tourism; and

WHEREAS, state and federal policymakers have historically not developed adequate conservation strategies to ensure that the best management practices are in place to shield the Great Lakes from significant degradation; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes restoration, protection and conservation is critical to the economic prosperity and the quality of the lives of future generations of those living in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Great Lakes Governors has developed a comprehensive interstate agreement to address Great Lakes water issues in the following ways:

- Ban new diversions of water from the basin (limited exceptions could be allowed, such as for public water supply purposes, but would be strictly regulated);
- Enforce a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Great Lakes water;
- Collect and share technical data on the use of Great Lakes water and promote the sharing of information among states and provinces;
- Develop regional goals for water conservation and efficiency;
- Encourage water conservation and efficiency programs in the states and provinces;
- Promote lasting economic development balanced with sustainable water use;
- Recognize the Great Lakes Basin as a shared public treasure and commit to continued public involvement in the implementation of policies; and

(OVER)

WHEREAS, the CSG Midwestern Office, on behalf of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus, is collaborating with the Council of Great Lakes Governors to inform state and provincial legislators about the proposed compact; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The Midwestern Legislative Conference hereby endorses and recommends adoption of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact by the eight states composing the Great Lakes region -- Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin -- and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution will be transmitted to governors and premiers, legislative leaders, and appropriate legislative committee chairs throughout the Great Lakes Basin.