



February 15, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
United States of America

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Canada

Dear President Obama and Prime Minister Harper:

There is a serious crisis on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence right now with water levels on Lakes Michigan and Huron at historic lows and well below average levels on the other lakes and the St. Lawrence. The impacts are widespread and significant. Commercial shipping and recreational boating, water intake structures, coastal wetlands, beaches, and many of the things that are so important to our economic well-being and quality of life are being adversely affected.

As mayors of 96 cities in the United States and Canada along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence with over 16 million citizens, we are living with the effects of these low water levels on a daily basis. We ask that you engage the full authority of your offices to find near, mid, and long term solutions to this problem. Although the International Joint Commission has conducted extensive studies and come up with some recommendations, the situation has deteriorated, especially in Georgian Bay, and needs prompt action.

We stand ready to work with your offices and your departments, ministries, and agencies to find solutions and implement them promptly. Please contact David Ullrich, Executive Director, at 312-201-4516 or david.ullrich@gslcities.org or Nicola Crawhall, Deputy Director, at (613) 232-1336 or nicola.crawhall@rogers.com if you have questions.

Thank you,

Tom Barrett, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
Cities Initiative
Mayor of Milwaukee

Keith Hobbs, Vice-Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
Cities Initiative
Mayor of Thunder Bay

Régis Labeaume, Secretary
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
Cities Initiative
Mayor of Québec City

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60606 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 407-0038 fax
www.gslcities.org

Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, Chair

Keith Hobbs, Mayor of Thunder Bay, Vice-Chair

Régis Labeaume, President of Québec Metropolitan Community, Secretary/Treasurer



cc. International Joint Commission
Lana Pollack, U.S. Chair
Joseph Comuzzi, Canadian Chair

Minister Peter Kent
Environment Canada

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60606 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 407-0038 fax
www.glsicities.org

Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, Chair

Keith Hobbs, Mayor of Thunder Bay, Vice-Chair

Régis Labeaume, President of Québec Metropolitan Community, Secretary/Treasurer