
City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM27.35	ACTION			Ward:All
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Request to support the Reinstatement of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council express full support of the Cities Initiative Position Statement requesting reinstatement of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the 300 Million annual Funding commitment.
2. City Council express full support of the Cities Initiative request to the White House for the immediate resumption of the Asian Carp Program and release of the Brandon Road Study.
3. City Council forward this Motion with "the Favour of a Response is Requested" to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Governors of the Eight Great Lake States, the Premiers of Quebec and Ontario and their respective Ministers of the Environment, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

Summary

Water is life. The quality of all life is dependent on the quality of water.

The Great Lakes contain 22.5 percent of the world's fresh water. Forty million people in Canada and the United States depend on water from the Great Lakes for health and economic and social prosperity.

Environmental degradation and invasive species continue to pose grave threats to the sustainability of the Great Lakes. Since its founding in 2010, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has funded protection and restoration to the Great Lakes. The White House Draft Budget includes the elimination of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Municipalities bordering the Great Lakes have been contributing 15 Billion Dollars annually to

Great Lakes restoration and protection. The White House direction has halted efforts at containing invasive species, particularly Asian Carp, from entering the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, a Bi-National coalition of over 128 Cities from around the Great Lakes Basin, stated mission is to preserve the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River for future generations. On March 16, 2017, the Cities Initiative released a Position Statement (attached) requesting reinstatement of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the United States Federal commitment to fully funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM27.35

Attachment 1 - Elimination of Great Lakes Funds Shocks Mayors

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-102212.pdf>