

KEY MESSAGES + ASKS

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

- The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a vital, cost-effective program for restoring our freshwater ecosystem and promoting our freshwater economy that has historically enjoyed bipartisan congressional support.
- The GLRI has funded more than 8,100 projects in our communities – and every dollar of federal investment generates more than three dollars in local economic activity.
- **ASK:** We urge Congress to pass the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2025, bipartisan legislation that would extend the GLRI for an additional five years at \$500 million per year.

U.S.-CANADA TRADE RELATIONSHIP

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region benefits from a strong U.S.-Canada trade relationship, representing 50 percent of our countries' bilateral trade and supporting a \$6 trillion regional economy.
- The Cities Initiative opposes 25 percent blanket tariffs because they will:
 - undermine our regional economy and the highly integrated North American supply chain
 - lead to higher prices – approx. \$1,300 per year for the average American household
 - cause a 1.6 percent decrease in U.S. gross domestic product and thousands of American job losses
 - disrupt economic transformation, preventing clean industries from locating their business operations in our region
- **ASK:** The Cities Initiative encourages Congress to weigh in with the administration on the harmful impacts of 25 percent blanket tariffs for Great Lakes communities, which will cause American job losses and threaten the economic prosperity of our region.

U.S. FEDERAL FUNDING FREEZE

- We are deeply concerned about the current situation regarding the proper, predictable disbursement of Congressionally-appropriated federal funding.
- The significant uncertainty caused by even temporary pauses in the availability of federal funding to our communities will result in:
 - costly, unnecessary delays in vital infrastructure projects
 - American job losses
 - government service disruptions in our region
 - disruption of economic transformation, preventing clean industries from locating their business operations in our region
- **ASK:** The Cities Initiative calls on Congress to ensure the continued flow of Congressionally-appropriated federal funding without stipulation.