

September 21, 2021

**Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
Full Federal Funding for the
Brandon Road Lock & Dam Project**

WHEREAS, the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence and Governors & Premiers (“the Conference”) sustains a long history of nonpartisan collaboration and cooperation to address aquatic invasive species (AIS); and,

WHEREAS, the introduction and rapid spread of AIS to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin result in environmental and economic impacts that compromise the benefit of native biota, water quality, fisheries, commercial navigation, and recreational boating; and,

WHEREAS, nonnative species of carp, such as bighead, silver, and black carp, collectively known as invasive carp, pose an imminent threat to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystem and economy because of their ability to reproduce rapidly and consume large quantities of food, and once established would be difficult to eradicate or control, thereby joining sea lamprey, zebra mussels, and other AIS that federal, State and Provincial governments, local governments and businesses in the region spend millions of dollars per year to mitigate and control; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provide the backbone for a multisector US\$6 trillion regional economy that includes a US\$7 billion commercial and sport fishing industry and a US\$15 billion recreational boating industry that could be severely impacted if invasive carp become established in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin; and,

WHEREAS, the eight U.S. Governors and two Canadian Premiers of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin are committed to preventing the introduction of invasive carp into the Basin; and,

WHEREAS, invasive carp are not known to inhabit the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin, yet are established in lower portions of the Illinois River in the Mississippi River Basin and increasing their distribution in the US; and,

WHEREAS, the Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River in Illinois provides a strategic focal point that can provide additional and enhanced controls as part of any comprehensive suite of measures to prevent invasive carp from moving closer to the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a Chief’s Report to the US Congress with a plan of action at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam to prevent invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin at this focal point; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress authorized the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Brandon Road Project in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, which was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and is authorized at US\$858,047,000; and,

WHEREAS, the USACE and the State of Illinois signed a design agreement on December 29, 2020, to complete pre-construction engineering and design (PED) for the Brandon Road Project, sponsored by the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the PED is estimated to cost US\$29 million and take 3-4 years for completion, and the States of Illinois and Michigan have committed to provide the 35% non-federal cost share for this phase; and,

WHEREAS, the balance of project cost for design, construction, operation, and maintenance is beyond the capacity of the States to match, resulting in a coalition of States to support full federal funding for this project; and,

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the US federal government to address this project is consistent with other large-scale projects that have a strong bearing on the regional and US economy; and,

WHEREAS, protection of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin is a shared responsibility of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence States and Provinces; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Commission, at the request of the States of Illinois and Michigan, and through its convening authority provided in the Great Lakes Basin Compact of 1955, has hosted two meetings of the “Brandon Road States and Provinces Forum,” which serves as a venue for the States and Provinces to discuss progress, policy, and other issues related to the engineering and design of the AIS prevention project proposed for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors support full US federal funding for remaining design, construction, operation, and maintenance via the Water Resources Reform and Development Act recognizing that this project is a national priority and that the federal cost-share for the entirety of the project would minimize the fiscal burden on the nonfederal sponsor and other supporting States and Provinces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes States and Provinces call for the following principles to guide the implementation of the design work covered by the PED agreement:

- the final design must appropriately protect public safety;
- the final design must satisfy the statutory and regulatory permitting requirements of applicable Illinois state statutes and regulations;

- the final design must be considerate of social and environmental justice impacts and appropriate minimization and mitigation of those impacts.
- the final design must incorporate the most effective technical measures to protect the Great Lakes from invasive carp;
- the final design must be fiscally responsible and avoid unnecessary costs for construction and maintenance of the project; and
- the final design must be implementable and practicable, accounting for the costs, logistics, existing technologies, and other factors applicable to the project.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors request that the US Congress immediately authorize and appropriate the Brandon Road Lock & Dam Project to allow construction to begin as soon as possible to protect the health of the Great Lakes and their benefits to the fullest.

Adopted by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers on this 21st day of September, 2021.