

## **Resolution to Protect Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Bottomlands**

*Whereas* aquatic bottomlands of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River consist of fine and coarse grained sediment, rocks ranging from pebbles to boulders, bedrock, and submerged beds of aquatic plants, and provide critically important habitat to fish and other aquatic organisms, and

*Whereas* these bottomlands are held in public trust, and

*Whereas* energy companies and other businesses are becoming increasingly interested in a “new frontier” for infrastructure development: Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River bottomlands, and

*Whereas* many of the projects appear to be based on a desire by the project sponsors to avoid controversies associated with siting such facilities on land, rather than any demonstrable water-dependent use, and

*Whereas* many of these are energy-related projects, including wind turbines, water intake/discharge pipes and cribs, transmission cables, gas wells, fuel pipelines, and other projects, and

*Whereas* there is an absence of a common basin-wide plan or basis for jurisdictions to respond to energy-related proposals,


*Therefore be it resolved* that Great Lakes United (GLU) urge that existing authorities be exercised to delineate complementary policies for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River bottomlands that:

- As a first priority, identify and map areas that should be protected from any significant lakebed alterations, and designate them for legal protection
- Prohibit uses of lakebed that are not water-dependent
- Identify locations for siting of projects in areas that can tolerate such disturbances
- Prevent degradation of aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, water-dependent birds, and other wildlife from proposed uses
- Require a demonstration of clear and substantial public benefit, including but not limited to environmental benefit—including the reduction of electric generation from coal-fired power plants or nuclear waste generating–facilities—before authorizing such uses
- Require the assessment of alternatives to bottomland-use proposals
- Apply mechanisms to collect fair market value for the use of bottomlands to assure the public is compensated for lakebed alterations, including lease costs
- Require that funds collected for the fair market value use of bottomlands be dedicated to protection and restoration of the Great Lakes
- Require long-term ecological monitoring to be paid for by those who undertake projects that alter lakebed habitat, and provide for adjustment or disapproval of projects that impair the trust values of bottomlands

*And be it further resolved* that GLU urges Great Lakes states, provinces, First Nations and tribes to develop a consistent, proactive basin-wide plan to guide the ecologically sustainable management of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River bottomlands, and

*Be it finally resolved* that GLU urges the Great Lakes states, provinces, First Nations and tribes to ban the transportation of fuels or other toxic substances by new pipeline siting within bottomlands, to protect the freshwater resource and the public drinking water reservoir.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON JUNE 11, 2006, DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly M. Flanagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent underline for the last name.

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Molly M. Flanagan, Secretary