



GREAT LAKES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

2015 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

*Buffalo, New York
September 25-26, 2015*

Resolution Supporting the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015

- WHEREAS,** many waterfront communities were built around their water resources years ago, and are now working to reposition and overcome issues such as limited public access and poor alignment with modern development. In addition to adapting to economic shifts, waterfront communities are facing pressures to meet increasing demands on water resources; make resilient investments that can withstand weather extremes like storms, floods, and fluctuating lake levels; and adapt to changing ecosystem conditions that range from shoreline erosion to stresses on fisheries.
- WHEREAS,** waterfront planning and implementation requires communities to navigate intergovernmental hurdles, work across constituent groups and agencies, and secure financing. Many communities lack the resources to make it from vision to reality – despite the economic returns from revitalization and the payoff that resiliency preparation can provide in the long term.
- WHEREAS,** the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 would support community efforts to make the most of water resources by attracting water-dependent industries and investments that leverage water sustainably, revitalize neighborhoods, and allow for recreation and tourism.
- WHEREAS,** the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 will support communities to plan for their future, provide the tools to implement that plan, and help them attract private and non-profit investment; and
- WHEREAS,** the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 will create a voluntary “Resilient Waterfront Community” designation within the Department of Commerce to recognize communities that adopt a waterfront revitalization and resiliency plan integrating economic, ecosystem, and infrastructure challenges and opportunities; and



WHEREAS, the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 will create a grant program providing funding to develop and implement a Resilient Waterfront Community plan; and

WHEREAS, the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 will establish a Resilient Waterfront Communities network to support sharing of best practices, highlight Resilient Waterfront Communities, and help attract new investment; and

WHEREAS, the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 will establish preferred status in other federal grant and loan programs for Resilient Waterfront Communities to help projects in Resilient Waterfront Communities move forward more quickly and help maximize the value of federal investments in these communities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus supports the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus urges the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to pass the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus urges the President of the United States to sign the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of 2015 into law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal, state, and provincial officials.

Adopted on September 26, 2015.