



## **23-1: Resolution on Regional Action on Climate Resiliency in Great Lakes Communities**

- WHEREAS,** the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is a critical, integrated system essential to the wellbeing of the region's people, environment, and economy; and
- WHEREAS,** 30 million people in Canada and the United States rely on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River for drinking water; and
- WHEREAS,** the impacts of climate change on the region, including increased temperatures and extreme weather events, are already evident and projected to intensify in the coming decades; and
- WHEREAS,** resulting flooding, shoreline erosion, and increased agricultural runoff endanger the region's residents, can be detrimental to drinking water, water quality, ecosystem health, and cause costly infrastructure damage; and
- WHEREAS,** the response to climate change needs to be a collaborative effort across international borders and state/provincial boundary lines to optimize federal investments and state/provincial resources; and
- WHEREAS,** the region needs to pursue policies to increase resiliency, or "the capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance..."<sup>1</sup>; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the members of the GLLC do hereby commit to collaborate regionally on policy measures in states and provinces to make communities resilient to climate change; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the specific measures recommended for states and provinces to implement be outlined in the GLLC policy recommendations developed by the Task Force on Climate Resiliency, comprised of the 2023 class of Birkholz Fellows; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Task Force on Climate Resiliency will assess progress and gather resources for the duration of the 2023-24 biennium, as well as identify opportunities for regional collaboration; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that at the end of the 2023-24 biennium, the Task Force on Climate Resiliency will confirm policy recommendations for climate resiliency that will guide the GLLC position on this issue beyond the tenure of the task force.

Adopted at the GLLC 2023 Annual Meeting on September 9, 2023

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<sup>1</sup>IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report.