



Resolution 25-1 GLLC Action on Emerging Contaminants: PFAS and Plastic

- WHEREAS,** the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are critical to the well-being of millions of people in the U.S. and Canada, and the ecological health of these waters is essential to the region's economy; and
- WHEREAS,** per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") and plastic compounds are increasingly found in drinking water, surface water, and groundwater, as well as in soil, air, fish and other wildlife; and
- WHEREAS,** the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) acknowledges that ingesting PFAS and plastic compounds through drinking water, fish, agricultural products, and other sources is harmful to human health and the presence of PFAS and plastic compounds affects the health of fish, plant life, and other wildlife; and
- WHEREAS,** regional recreation, including boating, hunting, and fishing, generates an estimated \$52 billion USD each yearⁱ and tourism GDP in the binational region was estimated at \$250 billion USD a year in 2017ⁱⁱ; and
- WHEREAS,** as of May 2025, the United States Environmental Protection Agency affirmed the drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 4 parts per trillion for two compounds of PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, to go into effect in the coming yearsⁱⁱⁱ; and
- WHEREAS,** as of August 2025, the Public Health Agency of Canada recommends a limit of 30 parts per trillion on PFOA and PFOS in drinking water and is considering adding PFAS to the list of toxic substances under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act^{iv}; and
- WHEREAS,** as of 2025, the states of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin have existing MCLs for PFAS compounds; and
- WHEREAS,** Canada began the process of phasing out single-use plastics in 2023^v and the International Joint Commission has confirmed the presence of microplastics in several environmental media and drinking water in a study released in 2024; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the members of the GLLC do hereby commit to collaborating regionally on policy measures in states and provinces to address emerging contaminants, especially PFAS and plastic, in the region's waters; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Task Force on Emerging Contaminants will assess progress and gather resources, as well as identify opportunities for regional action; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Task Force on Emerging Contaminants will confirm policy recommendations for emerging contaminants that will guide the GLLC position on this issue beyond the tenure of the task force.

Approved at the GLLC Annual Meeting on September 16, 2025

ⁱ [Great Lakes Commission, About the Lakes](#)

ⁱⁱ [Council of the Great Lakes Region, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region Tourism Trends and Statistics, 2017.](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [EPA Announces It Will Keep Maximum Contaminants Levels for PFOA, PFOS](#), May 14, 2025.

^{iv} [Health Canada](#), August 2025

^v [Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations](#), November 16, 2023