



Resolution 25-2 Encourage Chemical of Mutual Concern Designation for Microplastics

- WHEREAS,** the United States and Canada entered into the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) in 1972 to cooperate on the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes, the largest freshwater system in the worldⁱ; and
- WHEREAS,** through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Canada Water Agency, the two governments have led work on ten annexes covering areas of concern, lakewide management, chemicals of mutual concern, nutrients, discharges from vessels, aquatic invasive species, habitat and species, groundwater, climate change impacts, and science; and
- WHEREAS,** Annex 3, Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMC), was included in 2012 and is centered around the joint commitment of “protecting human health and the environment through cooperative and coordinated measures to reduce the anthropogenic release of chemicals of mutual concern”ⁱⁱ; and
- WHEREAS,** the International Joint Commission (IJC) has studied microplastics in the Great Lakes and made the recommendation to “consider microplastics for inclusion as a Chemical of Mutual Concern under Annex 3 of the GLWQA to support the development and implementation of a coordinated action plan for reducing microplastic pollution in the Great Lakes”ⁱⁱⁱ; and
- WHEREAS,** a review of Annex 3 is currently taking place to examine if microplastics qualify as a CMC; and
- WHEREAS,** if designated as a CMC, the governments would seek “to reduce (microplastics) release into the environment through the development of binational strategies and actions, which may include binational or domestic actions such as research, monitoring, surveillance and pollution prevention and control provisions”^{iv}; now, therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that members of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) support the IJC recommendation to designate microplastics as a CMC under Annex 3; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution and the GLLC’s position be communicated to the Great Lakes Executive Committee leadership and Annex 3 membership.

Approved at the GLLC Annual Meeting on September 16, 2025

ⁱ [Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#)

ⁱⁱ Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, [Annex 3 Chemicals of Mutual Concern](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Final Report of the IJC Great Lakes Science Advisory Board Work Group on Microplastics](#), November 2024

^{iv} [Guidance Document for Annex 3 Chemical Nominations](#)