Resolution in Support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are a critical resource for our nation, supporting the economy and way of life within the Midwestern region; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes hold 21 percent of the world’s surface freshwater and 84 percent of North America’s surface freshwater; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which was formally authorized by Congress in 2016 with $300 million per year for five years, is a collaboration among multiple federal agencies, the Great Lakes states, local communities and businesses that provides essential funding to restore and protect the Great Lakes by removing toxic substances, slowing the spread of invasive species, addressing pollution, protecting and restoring habitats; and

WHEREAS, the President’s 2018 federal budget eliminates the GLRI, ending the federal partnership with the Great Lakes states, jeopardizing the momentum created over more than a decade of regional cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the region is known for its high quality agricultural production, innovative human and capital resources and proximity to business, population, transportation and education centers; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Midwestern Legislative Conference urges the federal government to fully fund the GLRI and be it further

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