



**Committee of Advisors
to the
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

WHEREAS, modern society and industrialization has had a profound impact on the Great Lakes watershed in terms of pollution, chemical contamination, runoff, and reduced water quality;

WHEREAS, over the course of existence, efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency has led to the reduction or elimination of many of the threats and issues to the health of the Great Lakes watershed and it's fisheries;

WHEREAS, the new administration has suggested a closure of the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office and the relocation of EPA's Region 5 office to Kansas, a move that would severely jeopardize 20% of the world's surface freshwater;

WHEREAS, recent political developments have led to the repeal and reduction of protections for the Great Lakes and all streams and lakes within the Great Lakes watershed;

WHEREAS, the repeal of these protections leave the whole Great Lakes system open to irreversible degradation and destruction of the largest freshwater system in North America; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 million people in the U.S. and Canada are dependent on the Great Lakes system for drinking water, as well as impacted by any decline in water quality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call for the Commission and all affiliated agencies to work to reinstitute these vitally necessary regulations to protect the health of the Great Lakes system and its fisheries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Committee of Advisors: supports legislation and any effort to stop any closure or relocation of the EPA's Great Lakes regional offices, asks the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to support such efforts, and requests the Commission to communicate this resolution to the chair, ranking member, and Great Lakes members of relevant congressional committees including the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the U.S. and Canadian Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call upon the U.S. Government to take the steps necessary to maintain the Environmental Protection Agency and ensure it has the authority, funding, and tools necessary to protect the Great Lakes watershed from further environmental degradation, as well as to reverse recent actions intended to curb EPA authority.

Passed unanimously

19 May 2017

U.S. Committee of Advisors

The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.