



## Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

### 2017 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

*Radisson Admiral Hotel Toronto-Harbourfront  
Toronto, Ontario  
September 22-23, 2017*

#### **Resolution in Support of Modernization of the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

- WHEREAS,** the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, play a critical role in the economy and security of the Midwest and the nation. Each year, approximately 10,000 Great Lakes vessels, carrying 75 million tons of iron ore, coal, grain and other cargo, safely and efficiently traverse the locks. Nearly 100 percent of domestic iron ore, the primary material used to manufacture steel, travels from mines in Minnesota and Michigan's Upper Peninsula through the Soo Locks; and
- WHEREAS,** only one of the four Soo Locks is large enough to accommodate the modern vessels that commonly traverse the Great Lakes. Seventy percent of cargo is carried on these large ships that can only pass through the Poe Lock. The remainder of cargo goes through the smaller MacArthur Lock; the smallest 100-year-old Davis and Sabin locks are closed; and
- WHEREAS,** the reliance on one lock poses a serious risk to national security and the economies of the state of Michigan, the Midwest and the United States. A long-term outage of the Poe Lock due to lock failure or terrorist attack could cripple the economy and disrupt steel production in the United States. It is estimated that a 30-day outage would result in economic losses of \$160 million; and
- WHEREAS,** upgrades to the Soo Locks are needed to ensure national security and unfettered commerce through the Great Lakes. To this end, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has requested funding to conduct a study crucial to moving forward with the construction of a second large lock. The Economic Reevaluation Report would examine the economic benefits and costs of replacing the Davis and Sabin locks with a lock similar in size to the current Poe Lock; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus encourages the federal government to support plans to upgrade the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and approve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' reprogramming request to fund an Economic Reevaluation Report for replacing the Davis and Sabin locks; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to state governors and other appropriate state, provincial, and federal officials.

*Adopted on September 23, 2017.*

