



GLLC POLICY AGENDA for 2023-2027

In 2023-2027, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) will focus its work on the following five issue areas that affect the environmental health and economic vitality of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region.

Water Consumption: Ensure the availability of safe, clean, affordable drinking water

- Advocate for resources for lead service line replacements throughout the region, particularly in underserved communities
- Promote the GLLC Model Policy on lead in drinking water, including procedures to test and respond to lead in schools and childcare facilities and inventory and audits of water distribution systems
- Monitor the implementation of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement with consideration for both surface and groundwater resources

Toxic Substances: Remediate and prevent further pollution from emerging and legacy contaminants

- Identify the potential health effects of emerging and legacy contaminants in the public water supply, surface and groundwater resources, and wells, including but not limited to PFAS, coal-tar runoff, and road salt, in the surface and groundwater
- Share best practices for protecting the public and ecosystems from toxic substances in water by expanding testing and resources, coordinated remediation, and holding polluters accountable
- Encourage public and private efforts to prevent oil spills and other industrial pollution, including, but not limited to, airport sites and firefighting foam users, as well as emergency response measures
- Support full federal funding in the U.S. and Canada for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence restoration and protection initiatives and endorse each other's efforts to obtain funding for cleaning up Areas of Concern (AOCs)
- Advocate for accountability measures for responsible parties, as well as private investment and innovation in pollution reduction and remediation

Nutrient Management: Work with non-point source nutrient producers to reduce runoff

- Support policies to incentivize agricultural producers to adopt best practices for managing nutrients, while establishing competitive agricultural producer-led watershed management grants
- Encourage members to engage in educational and outreach activities to share information on the causes and impacts of nutrient pollution
- Include the installation of green infrastructure among the tools used to improve the management of nutrients
- Share best practices on water filtration and the role of wetlands in assisting with nutrient management

Aquatic Invasive Species: Control and prevent further introduction and movement of non-native species

- Strengthen and harmonize state and provincial laws on ballast water, while supporting federal standards
- Monitor and support collaborative efforts to prevent the introduction of invasive carp into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
- Prevent movement of non-native species through recreation and private water vehicles





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Coastal Resiliency: Plan and respond to the impacts of climate change on Great Lakes communities

- Support the sustainable economic development of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence coastal communities, including the restoration and preservation of habitat and wetlands
- Maintain the region's locks and ports and to replace infrastructure when necessary to ensure the sustainable movement of cargo on the Great Lakes
- Support public and private initiatives to adapt Great Lakes-St. Lawrence marine transport, including clean fuel and green infrastructure
- Advocate planning and measures to adapt to projected changes in temperatures, precipitation levels, water levels, etc. and mitigate threats of flooding and erosion through nature-based shoreline restoration where possible.

Annual meetings, web meetings, Patricia Birkholz Institutes, regional legislative activity, and other advocacy efforts will focus on these issue areas. Should the need arise, emerging issues may be addressed as resources allow and as determined by the GLLC officers and Executive Committee.



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