

## Contributing Chambers of Commerce

The following chambers are contributors to the development of this agenda:

Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber  
Allegheny Conference  
Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber  
Columbus Chamber of Commerce  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Detroit Regional Chamber  
Duluth Chamber of Commerce  
Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership  
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
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Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Muskegon Lakeshore Area Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Michigan Regional Chamber Alliance  
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce  
Rockford Chamber of Commerce  
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce  
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce  
Youngstown/Warren Chamber of Commerce



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A Collaborative Initiative  
of Metropolitan Chambers  
of Commerce from:

New York • Pennsylvania • Ohio • Michigan  
Indiana • Illinois • Wisconsin • Minnesota  
Iowa • Kentucky • Ontario

WE MAKE GREAT THINGS



A plan for  
**growth and job creation**  
within North America's  
**most formidable economic region**

# The Great Lakes Region

- Has **20%** of the world's fresh water
- Supports **33%** of the U.S. population and **62%** of Canada's population
- Generates about **39%** of all U.S./Canadian trade with the world
- Provides **40%** of U.S. manufacturing employment
- Produces **34%** of U.S. manufacturing output
- Makes **30%** of U.S. merchandise exports
- Includes **3** of the top **5** states in manufacturing intensity and **5** of the top **10** exporting states
- Creates **29%** of U.S. patents
- Is home to **19** of the world's leading research universities and produces **41%** of U.S. and Canadian bachelors and higher education degrees
- Is the hub of the world's largest bi-national trading relationship, with **400,000** people and **\$1.9** billion in trade crossing the U.S./Canada border daily, and **40%** of that trade volume originating in the eight states bordering the Great Lakes

# Advancing American Competitiveness

The bi-national Great Lakes region is the world's most important economic engine. We make great things. Our region is endowed with many economic assets, including the largest concentration of fresh water, abundant sources of energy, world-leading universities, and highly integrated supply chains. Our manufacturing supply chains are the heart of the regional economy. They have made our region an international economic powerhouse. They depend on sound infrastructure to help our two nations thrive in the global economy.

With focused collaboration and well-constructed policy from the federal government, this great region has the potential to lead North America's competitive resurgence.

If the **12 states and 2 provinces** of the Great Lakes trading region was a country, it would have the **4th largest** economy in the world, with estimated annual output near **\$6 trillion**.



## Transportation Infrastructure

### Lead Strategic Issues

To maintain and improve vital trade corridors.

### Priorities

Passage of legislation ensuring that revenues in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are spent for their intended purpose of operation and maintenance dredging. The coalition supports passage of the Restore America's Maritime Promise Act (known as the RAMP Act) and other similarly directed legislation in the Water Resources Development Act or other legislative vehicles.

The development of a sustainable funding strategy to support the nation's surface transportation infrastructure, including support for projects with significant impact on key trade corridors. The coalition stands ready to work with all who are interested in developing lasting solutions.

The maintenance and improvement of vital trade corridors through federal regional transportation infrastructure funding programs such as Projects of National and Regional Significance.



## Border Crossings between the U.S. and Canada

### Lead Strategic Issues

To securely improve cross-border movement of goods and people.

### Priority

Implementation of the initiatives in the U.S./Canada Beyond the Border Action Plan and the Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plan.



## Base Load Energy Development

### Lead Strategic Issues

To encourage development of regional resources in natural gas, nuclear energy, and clean coal that are essential to manufacturing and other elements of the Midwest economy.

### Priorities

The continued regulation of shale development practices and technologies at the state level.

Legislation to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take into greater consideration the impact of environmental regulation on the stability and reliability of the electrical grid.

Support for the work of the National Energy Technology Laboratory and the continued development of clean coal technology.



## Immigration of Highly Skilled Talent

### Lead Strategic Issues

To adopt programs, policies and laws that encourage highly-skilled immigrants to locate in the ethnically diverse Great Lakes region.

### Priorities

The enactment of long-term immigration reform legislation that facilitates significant international talent attraction, integration and retention, removes barriers and helps American companies compete.

The establishment of High Skill Immigration Zones to help metropolitan areas attract and retain deeper pools of talent.



## Water Quality in the Great Lakes Region

### Lead Strategic Issues

To preserve and enhance the quality of the Great Lakes, the region's defining geographic asset.

### Priority

The continuation of robust funding to complete the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

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Metro Chambers Coalition  
Great Lakes  
www.greatlakemetrochambers.com

## About the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

Nearly 40 chambers of commerce representing more than 150,000 businesses comprise the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition. Working together, we are dedicated to forging a strategic partnership between the Great Lakes region and the federal government. The coalition seeks to leverage our area's historic strengths in manufacturing, research and innovation to maximize investment and job creation that will benefit the entire country.