

Contributing Chambers of Commerce

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

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Allegheny Conference
Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
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
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northern Michigan Regional Chamber Alliance
Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce
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
West Michigan Chamber Coalition
Youngstown/Warren Chamber of Commerce

 Great Lakes
Metro Chambers Coalition

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WE MAKE GREAT THINGS



A plan for
GROWTH AND JOB CREATION
within North America's
MOST FORMIDABLE ECONOMIC REGION

A Collaborative Initiative of Metropolitan Chambers of Commerce from:

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

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THE GREAT LAKES REGION

- Holds **21 percent** of the world's surface fresh water and **84 percent** of North America's surface fresh water
- Supports **31 percent** of the U.S. population and **62 percent** of Canada's population
- Generates **35 percent** of all U.S./Canadian world trade
- Provides **42 percent** of U.S. manufacturing employment
- Produces **35 percent** of U.S. manufacturing output
- Generates **28 percent** of U.S. exports
- Includes **5** of the top **10** states in manufacturing intensity and **5** of the top **10** exporting states
- Has **38 percent** of all U.S. originated patents
- Is home to **19** of the world's leading research universities, contributing to **38 percent** of U.S. higher education degrees and **67 percent** of Canadian higher education degrees
- Is the hub of the world's largest binational trading relationship, with **400,000** people and **\$1.9 billion** in trade crossing the U.S./Canada border daily, and **40 percent** of that trade volume originating in the eight states bordering the Great Lakes

Advancing American Competitiveness

The binational 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 Canada and the United States 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.



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

LEAD STRATEGIC ISSUES

- To maintain and improve vital trade corridors.

PRIORITIES

- Appropriations ensuring that sufficient resources are invested in the operation and maintenance of the Great Lakes and the newly designated Great Lakes Navigation System, as directed by Congress in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.
- A multiyear surface transportation reauthorization that includes sustainable funding levels to maintain and improve the nation's surface transportation infrastructure. This includes support for techniques and funding programs that impact key trade corridors, such as the Projects of National and Regional Significance program. The Coalition believes that a significant upgrade of revenue sources is necessary, including increases in user fees and pilot toll projects on interstate systems.



BORDER CROSSINGS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CANADA

LEAD STRATEGIC ISSUES

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

PRIORITIES

- Implementation of the initiatives in the U.S./Canada Beyond the Border Action Plan and the Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plan, and continuation of those initiatives with the engagement of key stakeholder groups.



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 key sectors of the Midwest economy.

PRIORITIES

- Adequate funding for the development of clean fossil fuel technologies, together with financial incentives and guarantees to deploy them.
- Energy efficiency and environmental quality goals and regulations that are attainable and not harmful to the economy.
- The continued regulation of shale development practices and technologies at the state level.



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 – either as pilots or permanent policy – 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.

PRIORITIES

- The continuation of sufficient funding to complete the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- Level funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.
- The adoption of solutions to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes and to eradicate them from the Ohio and Mississippi watersheds.

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

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 the area's historic strengths in manufacturing, research and innovation to maximize investment and job creation that will benefit the entire country.