



In Support of Science:

IAGLR's response to recent U.S. federal actions

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED about recent actions taken by the U.S. federal government to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments; indiscriminately fire federal employees; threaten scientific advancement through defunding and stifling of international collaboration; and disrespect the sovereignty of other nations. To those directly harmed by these actions, we see you, and we recognize that, ultimately, these actions affect us all. Thank you for all that you do to protect the Great Lakes and safeguard our shared environment.

In a meeting in early February, the IAGLR Board of Directors reaffirmed that our core values—collaboration, diversity and inclusion, excellence, learning, and stewardship—are even more vital in these challenging times. In a letter sent to members and friends, IAGLR President Donna Kashian reiterated our commitment, noting that IAGLR continues to respect the “diverse values, beliefs, and backgrounds of its members and the broader Great Lakes community. Despite current challenges, its mission remains unchanged: to advance science-based understanding and stewardship of the world’s large lakes.”

North America’s Great Lakes region is an economic powerhouse whose prosperity depends on healthy ecosystems and the ongoing expertise of scientists to inform decisions about their management. IAGLR serves as a trusted source of science-based knowledge on the Laurentian Great Lakes and other large lake ecosystems to support these decisions. This understanding requires interdisciplinary collaboration and the inclusion of multiple ways of knowing, including Indigenous and community-based science. In uncertain times, science remains the heart and center of what we do, reinforcing IAGLR’s dedication to collaborative efforts for a sustainable future for the Great Lakes and beyond.

Therefore, we urge those in positions of power to take action to restore and protect the country’s tradition of a strong scientific enterprise, including programs that train the next generation of scientists. This commitment has served the prosperity, health, and security of society for the past 80 years. We call on U.S. courts to overturn harmful executive orders that strip the nation’s science funding and talent. We urge elected officials to continue bipartisan support for vital programs that protect U.S. waters, including about one fifth of the world’s surface freshwater contained in the Great Lakes. We denounce efforts that threaten international collaborations in both North America as well as on the African continent. We pledge to uphold our values to ensure our association remains welcoming, collaborative, and inclusive. And we encourage all scientists to speak up for science to their elected representatives and within their own communities, recognizing that every effort counts.

We invite you to visit the [About IAGLR](#) webpage to learn more about our beliefs and values. Please feel free to contact IAGLR President [Donna Kashian](#) or Executive Director [Jérôme Marty](#) with your comments and concerns.