



International Association for Great Lakes Research

4840 South State Road

Ann Arbor MI 48108

iaglr.org

February 15, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing on behalf of the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR, est. 1967), an organization of American and Canadian researchers studying the North American Great Lakes. IAGLR members encompass diverse scientific disciplines with a common interest in the understanding and management of large lake ecosystems. We hold an annual conference on Great Lakes research that alternates between Canadian and American locations. Our *Journal of Great Lakes Research* (est. 1974) is a highly respected, peer-reviewed publication with broad distribution that supports bi-national interests in managing this globally significant freshwater resource.

Our two nations have historically worked together to support scientific research, management, and sustainable economic development of the valuable resources of the Great Lakes (e.g. International Joint Commission, est. 1909). We urge you to continue this tradition and support the open communication of scientific research and to foster collaboration among Great Lakes scientists from both Canada and the United States.

This vital resource shared by our two countries contains 20 percent of the planet's surface freshwater. The lakes are the economic engine of North America and provide a living to many of the 42 million people who live in the basin. The lakes provide drinking water to tens of millions of Canadians and Americans, support commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism and shipping, and define the culture and region of the surrounding states and provinces.

IAGLR's membership is composed of scientists, resource managers, educators and students from US and Canadian federal agencies, state and provincial agencies, academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and industry. Scientific research is critical for our two countries' ability to better manage and restore the Great Lakes. For ultimate economic and social well-being to advance sustainable development in this region, it is critical that American and Canadian scientists have the resources and freedom to conduct their research and communicate their findings through peer-reviewed publication and to the public. The work of Great Lakes researchers supports the ecological, cultural, and economic services that the Great Lakes provide to the people of the region.

This year celebrates the 60th anniversary of our annual conference. We invite you to join us May 15-19, 2017 at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan for our conference with over 1,000 expected attendees. We look forward to working with our respective national governments and we are available to help in any way we can to advance our nations' management of this tremendous natural resource of historical and social import.

Thank you for considering the importance of the Great Lakes and the science needed to keep them great!

Yours truly,

Tomas Höök, President, IAGLR

cc.

The Honorable Rex Tillerson, US Secretary of State

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada

International Joint Commission Offices – Ottawa and Washington