

**Great Lakes Public Forum 2016
International Joint Commission Public Session
On Great Lakes Success and Challenges
October 5, 2016**

CGLI Perspectives

Good afternoon, my name is Dale Phenicie. I serve as the Technical and Projects Director for the Council of Great Lakes Industries. On behalf of CGLI's members and President Kathryn Buckner I am pleased to provide a few comments.

The presentations provided by the Parties over the past two days have highlighted the substantial progress made to restore and protect the Great Lakes. As you are well aware, Great Lakes water resources are largely responsible for the economic and industrial might for which the region is known. Industry has been pleased to have been a part of the restoration effort and looks forward to additional opportunities to engage with resource managers to continue this important work and sustainably rely on these resources over the long term for operational and economic success.

These presentations have also demonstrated the importance of science programs that assess the State of the Lakes and support the detailed analysis needed to attain the goals and objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This prompts our first observation - continued support of these science and monitoring programs by the Parties is essential. We hope you agree and will pass on this need to the Parties.

Second, we note that much credit has been given by the Parties to the region's stakeholders for pitching in to assist and guide remedial and protective work. We very much appreciate this and believe that such engagement is extremely important and the key to success for the work that lies ahead. Opportunities for industry to engage in both the scientific studies and development of resource management policy are essential. We would like to see more opportunities like these – similar to those available during the early 2000's when the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy was developed.

Finally, the third observation came this morning during the presentation regarding the protection and restoration of native habitats and species. Given the progress that we have now made, incorporation of the concepts presented by the Annex 7 team in a way that melds economic and social needs with those of the natural environment now seems possible. The Great Lakes system now appears more capable of providing the needed habitats that can successfully support these important native species.

CGLI was founded on a sustainable development platform. Over the past few years we have participated in the work of a group of regional visionaries seeking to identify and promote the region's robust water resource attributes within a framework called the "Blue Economy." Let's see what we can do to put the successes of the past 20 years together with a robust collaborative approach focused on building the "Blue Economy."