



Executive Director's Letter

As we complete another successful year at the Council of Great Lakes Governors, I would like to thank our Co-Chairs for their leadership. In particular, I would like to recognize Governor Daniels and his team for



David Naftzger
Executive Director,
Council of Great Lakes
Governors

helping to lead our shared efforts during the past two years. Through the guidance of Governor Daniels and Co-Chair Governor Quinn, we have accomplished a great deal to energize our regional economy and protect our Great Lakes.

We have continued our historic work to put the "Great Lakes Compact" into action. As a result, the Great Lakes States have put in place permanent protections for our water supply and a framework for its sustainable use. Pending Ontario's completion of needed actions, the companion Agreement among the States, Ontario and Québec will be fully effective and ensure region-wide protection.

In recent years, we have launched an effort to increase foreign investment in our region while continuing our broader work to grow our economy. We have created a good foundation from which to build, and this work will accelerate in coming years in order to seize our economic opportunities.

We welcome Michigan Governor Snyder who will serve as Council Co-Chair along with Governor Quinn beginning in 2013. We look forward to their leadership, and the opportunity to work with recently-elected Québec Premier Marois, and Indiana Governor-elect Pence. These transitions will help to re-energize our work and define our future directions.

Thank you for your continued partnership, and happy holidays.

— David Naftzger
Executive Director, Council of Great Lakes Governors

Governors Elect Snyder Co-Chair

The Great Lakes Governors have elected Michigan Governor Rick Snyder as Co-Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, effective January 14, 2013. Snyder will join Illinois Governor Pat Quinn as Co-Chair to spearhead the Council's efforts to protect the Great Lakes and invigorate the region's economy.



Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and US
Ambassador to China Gary Locke in
Chengdu, China.
Photo courtesy of MEDC

Governor Snyder said, "As the Governor of the Great Lakes State, one of my highest priorities is protecting the largest single source of surface freshwater in the world. I look forward to working with my colleagues as Co-Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors to tackle our shared challenges, and take advantage of our collective opportunities."

"I am delighted to welcome Governor Snyder as Co-Chair of the Council," said Governor Quinn. "By taking a truly regional approach to preserve and improve the Great Lakes, we can make great progress. Governor Snyder recognizes that protecting our Lakes is critical, and I look forward to working with him as Co-Chair."

The Co-Chairs will help lead the Great Lakes Governors' efforts to protect and restore the Lakes including combating invasive species. A continuing focus will also be accelerating regional economic development. Toward that end, Governor Snyder recently completed a mission to China that was coordinated with the Council's Shanghai office.

The Great Lakes Governors plan to meet in 2013. Further information will be available soon at www.cglg.org

Council Seeks Companies for Australian Trade Mission

The Council of Great Lakes Governors is recruiting companies to participate in its trade mission to Australia from May 6-11, 2013. Mission participants will visit Melbourne and Sydney during the weeklong trip. This will be the Council's third trade mission to the region since 2006. The Council's Australia Trade Office will provide each participating company with a customized business schedule to meet with prospective representatives, distributors and/or clients targeted towards their specific industry and business needs.

Mission participants will also benefit from a country briefing highlighting topics such as the current status of the Australian economy, legal aspects of doing business in Australia, logistics and supply chain, and culture. Additionally, participants will receive logistical support and networking/social opportunities complete with opportunities to enjoy Australia's unique natural beauty and relaxed lifestyle.

According to Angela Foley, Director of the Council's Australian Trade Office in Sydney, "Australia's attractiveness as a location to do business is the result of a strong economy, sophisticated business culture, and a familiar legal and corporate framework. The must-see cities of Melbourne and Sydney offer a wide range of exceptional opportunities for US exporters across a variety of sectors. Further, meeting face-to-face with prospective partners gives you a distinct advantage over your competitors, one that you can't afford to miss." The Council's Australia office encourages early registration in order to gain the full advantage of advanced planning. **The mission registration deadline is February 22, 2013.**

According to the IMF, Australia's economy is now the 12th largest in the world, surpassing South Korea, Mexico and Spain. Australia remains on track to deliver steady growth in the coming years despite gloomy global predictions. Australia enjoys solid GDP growth, relatively low unemployment, contained inflation, strong public finances and a long pipeline of investment in resources. The current exchange rate (US\$1.00 = A\$0.95) means US goods and services are very attractive to Australians.

Australia's proximity to many of the world's fastest growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region make it a prime location for doing global business. The resources boom likely will continue to drive the Australian economy in the immediate future, particularly in the mining and energy sectors. Other significant sectors include financial services, infrastructure, agribusiness and health/biotechnology. Now is the time to take advantage of all that Australia has to offer!

For more information please visit,
<http://www.cglg.org/projects/AU2013mission/index.aspx>
or scan here:



Key sectors for Great Lakes companies:

- Telecommunications/IT: Over the next decade, the Australian Government will roll out a national, next-generation broadband network.
- Mining: Exports are forecast to increase for iron ore, metallurgical coal, thermal coal, copper ores and concentrate, and alumina.
- Oil & Gas: Australia is the world's fourth largest liquid natural gas exporter.
- Health care: Health spending is projected to nearly double as a share of GDP over the next 40 years.
- Green technology: Australia's new carbon tax will create opportunities for exporters who offer energy auditing, environmental monitoring and general clean technology solutions.

Council to Host “Doing Business in Australia” Webinar

On Wednesday, January 23, at 4:00 p.m. EST, the Council of Great Lakes Governors will host a “Doing Business in Australia” Webinar. This session will provide important industry information for Great Lakes companies looking to expand their business in this dynamic market. Angela Foley, Managing Director of the Council’s Australia and New Zealand Trade Office will be the featured expert. This webinar is free of charge.

To register for the webinar, please visit: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/147858510>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Great Lakes Compact Wins Innovation Award

The Council of State Governments has awarded one of its prestigious 2012 Innovation Awards for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, a creative interstate and international partnership to manage water resources in the Basin. The Council of State Governments Innovations Awards are given



The Council’s David Naftzger, Peter Johnson and Michael Piskur accept the 2012 Innovation Award from Ohio Rep. Armond Budish and Kansas Senate Majority Leader Jay Scott Emler.

annually to State programs that are particularly innovative and creative in problem-solving. Dozens of programs are nominated on a huge range of issues, and the selections are made by panels of State officials. The award was presented at the Council of State Governments’ annual meeting in Austin, Texas on December 2.



Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, Chair of the Governors’ Compact Council when the award was given, said “Through the Great Lakes Compact, we have come together as a region to protect our Great Lakes and the many benefits

they provide. This compact breaks new ground in its structure and this award is a fitting recognition.”

More information on the Council of State Governments is available at <http://www.csg.org> and information on the award is available at <http://www.csg.org/programs/innovations.aspx>.



Mark your calendar for the Council’s Trade Mission to South Africa March 6-15, 2013. For more information visit:

<http://www.cglg.org/projects/SA2013mission/index>

Council Leads Great Lakes Water Data Project

The Council of Great Lakes Governors and the Great Lakes Observing System have begun work on a project focused on improving data and information available to water managers and the public. The project will identify and make available online data related to water quantity, flow and lake levels for a variety of applications. Specifically, the Great Lakes Compact Council and Regional Body will use this data as part of the Cumulative Impact Assessment to be completed in 2013, as well as for other purposes.

Under the Great Lakes Compact and Agreement, the States and Provinces commit to periodically assess the cumulative impacts of Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions of Water from the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin. No comprehensive cumulative impact assessment has ever been conducted anywhere in the world at this scale. The assessment will support a review of decision making standards and their application, and to inform future water management decisions across the Basin. This innovative work will also provide a potential model for assessments in other watersheds.



A stream gage deployed by the USGS Michigan Water Science Center, Lansing Field Office.

Regional Body and Compact Council Select New Leadership

On December 7, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) held their semi-annual meetings. The Regional Body and Compact Council selected Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin to serve as Chair and Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York to serve as Vice-Chair. The Regional Body also adopted protocols for engaging in dialogue with Tribes and First Nations. Separately, the Great Lakes Commission provided an update on its regional water use database. Additional information on the database can be found at www.glc.org

Both meetings were open to the public, and there was an opportunity for the public to provide comments to the Regional Body and Compact Council members. Information on both meetings can be found at www.glsregionalbody.org and www.gslcompactcouncil.org.



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