

PREAMBLE

We live in a global economy. There have been paradigm shifts in the pattern of growth and development around the globe. This new era of global competition calls for a restructuring of our economy and education system, as well as recognition that large multi-state mega regions will be the primary building blocks for promoting and fostering economic development. These mega regions contain large metropolitan areas, as well as small rural communities, which support each other in unique ways. It is important that we adapt to this new environment to remain competitive and viable. Linked together by unique resources, strengths and challenges, the Great Lakes states, generally comprised of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota is a mega region.

It is proposed that regional councils in the Great Lakes states, in recognition of these paradigm changes, adapt to the new environment and organize themselves as a new Great Lakes Association of Regional Councils (GreatRegion). The commonality of interests amongst regional councils within this association will make it more conducive for joint training and networking, advocacy at the federal level for Great Lakes states' issues, marketing and promotion for economic development, preservation of the Great Lakes as a vital natural resource, as well as a vehicle for addressing other challenges and opportunities that may arise or be identified. GreatRegion will be a model for retooling, redesign, and modernization of our economy.

In his 1859 book *Origin of the Species*, Charles Darwin wrote (paraphrasing) ".....the species that survives is not the strongest, not the most intelligent, but the ones that can adapt to the new environment....." Darwin's observation also applies to organizations such as regional councils. In that spirit, let us gather together, friends and colleagues who are involved in regional cooperation and collaboration, to create a vision for the future role of regional councils and build a bridge to the 21st century.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (herein referred to as the "Commission"), a regional council of governments in the State of Michigan, shares a commonality of interests and purpose with other regional councils in the Great Lakes states;

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that while acting locally is of paramount importance, a partnership of regional cooperation and collaboration with other regional councils in the Great Lakes states adds to a more effective instrument for promoting and fostering economic development, advocacy at the federal level, marketing, training and networking, and other collaborative initiatives;

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that we live in an era of a global economy with the Great Lakes states being a mega region, with large metropolitan and rural communities intricately connected to each other, engaged in global competition for economic growth;

WHEREAS, a new Great Lakes Association of Regional Councils (GreatRegion) is being established to address the issues outlined in the **Preamble**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission hereby applies for membership in the Great Lakes Association of Regional Councils, appoints the executive director and a member of the board of directors of the Commission to the association; and agrees to participate in the programs and activities of the association.

Name/Title

Authorized Signature

Date