

## A Pledge of Action, Collaboration and Support

BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S GREAT LAKES STATE PROGRAMS

As leaders of The Nature Conservancy state programs on the Great Lakes, we understand and pledge our support for the vision for Great Lakes conservation discussed at this unprecedented gathering.

The Great Lakes are a globally significant freshwater resource that makes our efforts a conservation imperative. We are leading a priority project of the Campaign for a Sustainable Planet that is critical to the attainment of The Nature Conservancy's 2015 goal. We fully embrace this opportunity to contribute to the organization's global vision and needed solutions for freshwater conservation around the world.

Our objective is to assure a healthy and resilient Great Lakes ecosystem where the connection between natural systems and the quality of human life is understood and valued. By working with partners we will assure the Great Lakes are among the best managed ecosystems in the world.

We are compelled by this objective to undertake an ambitious new collaborative effort. Building upon The Nature Conservancy's long history, its traditions and site-based conservation successes through state-based programs, we will reach for a new model characterized by a shared and understood vision, a commitment to co-investment, new levels of coordination and integration across boundaries, and sharing and deploying our skills and staff.

The following principles will guide the leadership of the Great Lakes state programs in their actions:

- **The mission and 2015 goal of The Nature Conservancy;**
- **The Core Values of The Nature Conservancy: Integrity Beyond Reproach; One Conservancy; Respect for People, Communities and Cultures; Commitment to Diversity; and Tangible Lasting Results.**
- **Partnerships that achieve greater leverage of the Conservancy's and partners' unique ability to contribute to Great Lakes and freshwater conservation around the world;**
- **Effective, high-leverage, and efficient use of resources, particularly financial and human resources; and**
- **Transparency in planning and decision-making.**

Defined and bound by one of the largest freshwater ecosystems in the world, our programs face a tremendous challenge and bi-national opportunity, with partners, to continue to fulfill the Conservancy's unique niche of innovation, science, and market-based strategies. With five Great Lakes, two countries, and one chance to find a more effective path forward to protect one of the world's priorities, we collectively make our pledge and commitment of leadership and resources to fulfill this vision, and to leverage our capabilities and support beyond the Great Lakes to the Conservancy's freshwater work globally.