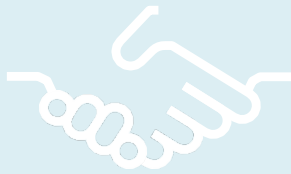


Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition 2023 Policy Priorities

The Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition (GLMCC) is a national collective of chambers of commerce across the Great Lakes region that jointly advocate on core policy issues, including water quality, immigration reform, trade, transportation, and infrastructure. Since its founding in 2008, GLMCC has become a leading and effective voice on federal policy impacting the Great Lakes region.

Talent Attraction & Building Our Workforce



- Reform the H-1B visa system to boost American innovation and address the shortage of high-skilled workers by raising the overall cap on H-1B visas.
- Create a new visa pathway that is place-based, allowing immigrants to compete on the open labor market or start their own business in regions experiencing population decline.
- Streamline the process for international students by creating a path for international student graduates with degrees in STEM, healthcare, business, and other key fields to apply for permanent residency in the U.S.

Revitalization Through Innovation



- Create a Qualified Office Conversion Tax Credit to incentivize conversion of unused office buildings to residential, commercial, and mixed-use properties – and requiring 20% of new residences to be rent-restricted and occupied by low-income individuals.
- Maintain support for full funding of the EDA Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs.
- Continue to pursue increased funding needed to fully empower the Great Lakes Authority.

Expanding Great Lakes Passenger Rail Service



- The economic benefits of Amtrak's proposed passenger rail expansion across the Great Lakes region are immeasurable, allowing workers to commute to a job in a different city and carrying visitors to our local businesses and entertainment venues.
- With a lower-than-average cost of living, the Great Lakes region would likely experience a significant increase in economic development as a result of expanded passenger rail service.

Preserving Our Great Lakes & Protecting Our Northern Shores



- Support the \$55 million appropriation in the FY24 budget for the U.S. Coast Guard's construction of a new heavy Great Lakes icebreaker and pursue future funding for additional technology and communications upgrades for the U.S. Coast Guard's Great Lakes fleet.
- Support \$425 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the FY24 Budget.