

Improve United States and Canadian Chemical Policy by accepting the Louisville Charter as a Binational Mission Statement

Whereas there exists unprecedented risk and environmental consequence resulting from chemicals flowing into our local, regional, and global economies, and

Whereas new chemicals are introduced into commerce within and outside the Great Lakes region much more quickly than screening can occur, account can be taken, and policy can regulate or manage, and

Whereas known persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances and additional toxic substances with potential to persist and bioaccumulate, specifically PBDEs, organotins, chlorinated paraffins, PFOs and PFOAs, have been found in high concentrations in the blood, tissue and breast milk of humans, in wildlife tissues, in sediments in drinking water, and in household dust¹ and

Whereas chemicals in commerce, their subsequent use, and their disposal remain a trans-boundary issue throughout their life cycle, necessitating a transboundary and cooperative effort to effect a transition to a sustainable chemical policy, and

Whereas the Great Lakes ecoregion remains directly affected by the long-range transport of certain chemicals, and

Whereas in May 2005 Great Lakes United endorsed the U.S. Louisville Charter – Platform for a Safer and Healthier Environment through Innovation,² and

Whereas the Louisville Charter recognizes that a unified effort to reform chemical policy is vital, that industry has taken the lead in several instances, but in the end, “transforming entire markets will require policy change,” and;

Whereas the Louisville Charter asserts the following six specific platform planks for action and chemicals policy reform:

- “Prioritize for elimination chemicals that are slow to degrade, accumulate in our bodies or living organisms, or are highly hazardous to humans or the environment. Ensure that chemicals eliminated . . . are not exported to other countries”
- "Redesign products and systems, Seek to eliminate the use and emissions of hazardous chemicals by altering production processes, substituting safer chemicals, rewarding innovation and re-examining product function.."
- “Give public and workers full right to know and participate: provide meaningful involvement for public and workers in decisions on chemicals”
- “Act with foresight: prevent harm from new and existing chemicals when credible evidence of harm exists”
- "Require Comprehensive Safety Data for All Chemicals"
- "Take immediate action to protect communities and workers: we must make sure that no population is disproportionately burdened by chemicals”³

¹ Referring to the recent report released March 2005, by Clean Production Action found at: www.safer-products.org

² Formulated in May 2004 by groups and individuals in Louisville, Kentucky, finalized in June 2005.

³ The Louisville Charter – Platform for a Safer and Healthier Environment through Innovation full document and supporters found at: www.louisvillecharter.org

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United urges the United States and Canadian governments to collaboratively adopt the key principles outlined in the Louisville Charter as an important step for chemicals policy in North America to protect the health of our communities and the environment.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON JUNE 9, 2005 IN KINGSTON, ONTARIO.



Patty O'Donnell, President