

## **Resolution to Join the International Health Care Without Harm Campaign**

**Whereas fish, wildlife, and humans in the Great Lakes ecosystem are being adversely affected by persistent toxic chemicals, particularly chlorine-related compounds including dioxin,**

**Recognizing the International Joint Commission, through the work of hundreds of researchers, has documented this threat, and has recommended action to the U.S. and Canadian governments to address it,**

**Noting the U. S. and Canadian governments have signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which establishes a policy framework for action, including the goal of virtual elimination of persistent toxic compounds through a policy of zero discharge,**

**Recognizing that the United States Environmental Protection Agency draft Dioxin Reassessment reports that dioxin is even more toxic than previously thought, is toxic in minuscule amounts, and targets the immune, reproductive and hormone systems of humans and animals exposed to it, and**

**Noting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency Dioxin Reassessment calculates that medical waste incinerators are the third largest known source of dioxin to the U.S. environment, and**

**Noting that the contribution of Canadian medical waste incinerators is similarly large, and**

**Whereas the United States Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged that small incinerators are unregulated and are likely important contributors to dioxin loading in the U.S., and downwind in Canada, and**

**Whereas the United States Environmental Protection Agency has calculated that medical waste incinerators are the fourth largest source of anthropogenic mercury to the environment, and**

**Whereas the contribution of Canadian medical waste incinerators is similarly large, and**

**Whereas recent regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States fall far short of the goal of virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances, and do not represent best available control technology, and**

**Whereas alternatives to incineration are well established, cost effective, safe and effective, and are used by many institutions, and**

**Whereas alternative products are available which do not create and release persistent toxic compounds when disposed, and**

Whereas, Great Lakes United has been a leader in the region in the pursuit of pollution prevention and virtual elimination initiatives to protect the Great Lakes region and its inhabitants, and

Recalling that Great Lakes United has endorsed the Sixth and Seventh Biennial Reports of the IJC, including the following recommendation: "The Parties, in consultation with industry and other affected interests, alter production processes and feedstock chemicals so that dioxin, furan and hexachlorobenzene no longer result as byproducts . . ." and

Recalling that Great Lakes United supported the promulgation of strong rules regulating medical waste incinerators,

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United:

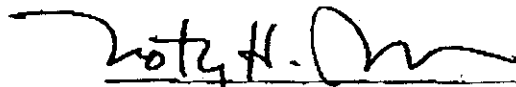
Become an official member of the international Health Care Without Harm Coalition, and

Share the goals and mission of the coalition including:

- Promoting comprehensive pollution prevention practices
- Supporting the development and use of environmentally safe materials, technology and products
- Educating and informing health care institutions...
- Eliminating the nonessential incineration of medical waste
- Phasing out the use of PVC plastics and persistent toxic chemicals
- Phasing out the use of mercury in the health care industry

Submitted by the Clean Production Task Force, June, 1998

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE 16TH ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON JUNE 7, 1998.



TIM BROWN, SECRETARY