

A Resolution to Support Renewable Energy Generation Modes, Efficiency, and Conservation to Mitigate Global Warming and Climate Change

WHEREAS combusting coal for electricity releases large amounts of greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS nuclear power is very costly and time consuming to build, is vulnerable to accidents and attacks that could release catastrophic quantities of radioactivity, risks nuclear weapons proliferation, creates radioactive wastes for which there is no scientifically sound nor socially acceptable solution, and discharges radioactivity throughout its fuel chain on a routine basis that threatens human health;

WHEREAS these generating modes are hugely inefficient, releasing vast amounts of waste heat and steam into the water and air, effectively contributing to global warming, as well as requiring energy-intensive fuel chains, while renewable sources of electricity take advantage of nature's abundance of such resources as wind and solar energy;

WHEREAS our governments continue to subsidize nuclear and coal-fired generators with taxpayers' funds in the billions of dollars and by tax exemptions and grants;

WHEREAS electricity generation from such renewable sources of power as solar and wind in distributed local facilities is vastly less polluting, immensely more safe and secure, and requires minimal waste disposal;

WHEREAS the book *Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy* by Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, shows that both fossil fuels and nuclear power can be phased out and replaced by energy efficiency and a diversity of renewable energy sources by mid-century as a climate crisis solution;

WHEREAS the research and analysis of Amory Lovins, Cofounder, Chairman, and Chief Scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute, shows that micro-power and negawatts (energy savings through efficiency) are already greatly outcompeting nuclear power in the marketplace;

WHEREAS renewable energy technologies create jobs, as seen in Germany, where the solar power industry has created over 30,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone, while the wind power industry has created over 100,000 new jobs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Great Lakes United calls on our federal, state and provincial governments to immediately shift taxpayer funds away from fossil fuels and nuclear power into support for distributed renewable energy generators, energy efficiency, and conservation measures, to massively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their health and environmental harms, and urgently try to mitigate as much as possible the effects of global warming and climate change.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY GREAT LAKES UNITED AT THE MAY 2, 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN HURON, OHIO.



Jim Mahon, President