RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

*Whereas* over 800 million people lack access to safe drinking water and that over 2.6 billion do not have access to basic sanitation and approximately 1.5 million children under 5 years of age die each year from lack of access to clean water; and

*Whereas* only 1% of the water on earth is fresh water and that fresh water is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility; and

*Whereas* equitable access to clean, fresh water and sanitation is a basic human necessity and an integral component of the realization of all human rights,

*Whereas* the responsibility of all countries is to promote and protect all human rights, globally, fairly, and in an equal manner and to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development goals,

*Therefore be it resolved* that Great Lakes United urge the governments of Canada and the United States in national and global trade, to exercise responsible stewardship over this life-giving resource by respecting water as a common good and basic human necessity thereby a human right that cannot be bought and sold, this being ensured through public ownership; and recognize that this human right brings with it the duty to treat water responsibly, and the obligation to ensure all citizens’ human rights are met.

*Be it further resolved* that Great Lakes United urge the governments not to treat water as a marketable commodity controlled only by marketplace rules of supply and demand in making regulations and trade agreements.

*I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the thirtieth annual meeting of Great Lakes United on November 9, 2012.*

Linda Smith, Secretary