

Interview with Mayor of Hammond - Why he has joined

Last month we were excited to welcome the City of Hammond, Indiana as a new member of the Cities Initiative. Hammond is located on the southern shore of Lake Michigan with a population of just over 76,000. While they may be smaller in size, they have big hopes for their involvement with the Cities Initiative and the future of the Great Lakes.

Long-time Mayor Thomas McDermott expressed great excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead with the coalition of mayors focused on protecting the Great Lakes. From drinking water and commerce, to recreation and tourism, the Hammond community relies on Lake Michigan as a critical asset to their livelihood and identity. Mayor McDermott reflected on his upbringing in California where water was scarce, and credited this experience for his great appreciation of the Great Lakes and desire to "protect them for generations to come."

As a new member, Mayor McDermott looks forward to listening to, and learning from, the expertise of other mayors in the region and working together to problem solve around Great Lakes issues. He further noted that developing strategic solutions with other mayors across the basin, in both the U.S. and Canada, is "a smart thing to do" and he's "excited to be a part of it."

The Cities Initiative welcomes Mayor McDermott and the residents of Hammond.