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## **Pittsburgh and Green Bay team up to advance shared agenda on Capitol Hill**

*Great Lakes region working together to grow jobs, attract investment and shape national policy*

(PITTSBURGH and MILWAUKEE – January 26, 2011) – The Great Lakes region represents one-third of the U.S. GDP, one-third of the U.S. population and 100% of the football franchises slated to meet on the field on February 6, 2011.

The Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition is focusing on its ground game today with a slate of Capitol Hill visits seeking support for policy changes that will:

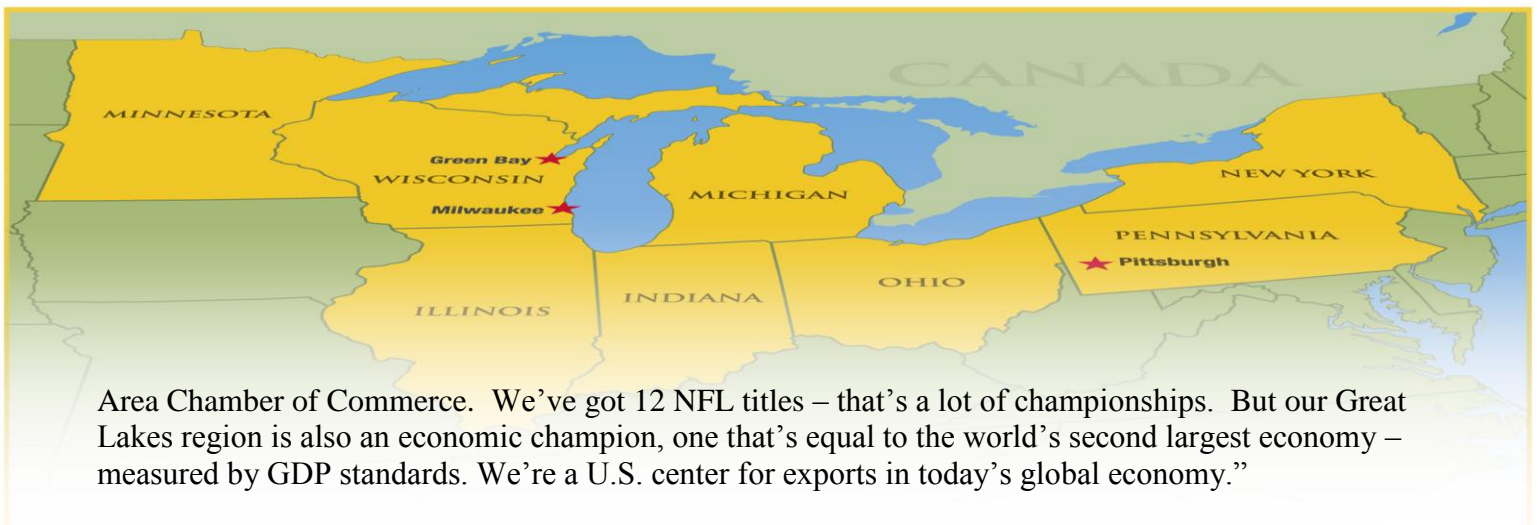
- Improve the Midwest’s transportation infrastructure;
- Create a more open and secure border with Canada and support policies that help our communities attract skilled immigrants, who have a very strong propensity to create new businesses and jobs; and
- Diversify the region’s economy by boosting innovation and entrepreneurship.

“We’re going to leave our head-to-head competition to the football field. But today, right here, we’re shoulder-to-shoulder on the common ground we share,” said Barbara McNeese, president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.

“Our region is rich in natural resources – especially water – we have one-fifth of the world’s fresh water supply. We’re a center of advanced manufacturing, higher education, health care and an international hub for research and development. One-third of new U.S. intellectual property and nearly 40% of all U.S. bachelor’s degrees come out of the Great Lakes states every year. We’re smart at football – and a lot more,” said McNeese.

“There’s a reason they call Green Bay “Titletown,”” said Fred Monique, president of the Green Bay

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Area Chamber of Commerce. We've got 12 NFL titles – that's a lot of championships. But our Great Lakes region is also an economic champion, one that's equal to the world's second largest economy – measured by GDP standards. We're a U.S. center for exports in today's global economy.”

“Packers, Steelers – only one of our teams can win in the big game. But working together as metro chambers we are committed to making sure all of us in the Great Lakes region are winners this legislative session,” said Timothy Sheehy, president of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce. “Just like our football teams, we need to demonstrate teamwork and a winning attitude if we are going to successfully move our regional agenda down the field in DC.”

*The Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition includes more than 30 chambers of commerce and 150,000+ job providers, representing more than 1 million employees.*

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**What is the Great Lakes Region?**

America's heartland

Center of advanced manufacturing, higher education, healthcare, an international hub for research and

– more –





development and rich in natural resources

The Great Lakes Region (12 U.S. states and Canada's two largest provinces; reaches from Buffalo and Pittsburgh in the east to Minneapolis-St. Paul and St. Louis in the west) has:

- One-fifth of the world's fresh water,
- One-third of the U.S. population,
- One-third of the U.S. GDP
- One-third of U.S. new intellectual property every year

The region is home to:

- Nineteen of the world's 100 best research universities (compared to 15 in Northeast/Mid-Atlantic and 13 on West Coast); colleges and universities that convey 38% of all U.S. bachelor degrees; 36% of all science and engineering degrees; 37% of all advanced science and engineering degrees
- More than 300 Fortune 1000 firms, corporate HQs and R&D centers

Together with Canada – in GDP terms – the third largest economy in the world