

# BROOKINGS

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March 4, 2008

The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program is planning to release a major new report focused on the economic realities and opportunities facing the bi-national Great Lakes region.

The report, working title: “*Blueprint for Bi-National Prosperity: Reclaiming Great Lakes Leadership as Economic Engine for US and Canada.*” is the next product of the Great Lakes Economic Initiative, an ongoing multi-year research and policy development initiative designed to improve the economic vitality of the Great Lakes region.

The Brookings Institution cordially invites you to join local co-hosts the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, the University at Buffalo Regional Institute, the Buffalo Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the Consulate General of Canada at a briefing as part of the public release of this report.

***The briefing will be held 3:30-5:00 pm on Monday, March 24, 2008, at the Buffalo-Niagara Partnership, 665 Main St. Buffalo New York.***

John Austin, Brookings Non-resident Senior Fellow, joined by co-authors Elaine Dezenski, and Britany Affolter Caine, along with project co-hosts, partners and funders will conduct the briefing.

The highly integrated bi-national Great Lakes region is a vital worldwide trading hub and a fulcrum for building out important education, environmental, and economic assets critical for both Canadian and the US economic competitiveness.

This new report expands upon the 2006 seminal Brookings study *The Vital Center*, and documents the unique positioning of the bi-national Great Lakes region to be both nation’s centrepiece for innovation, talent-generation, green and sustainable development; and serve as a model for a thriving, globally engaged economic region across borders, while maintaining homeland security.

The goal of this report is to inform and elevate the attention to the unique economic opportunities the region affords the US and Canada. The report makes important recommendations for how both countries can make real the region’s economic promise. It proposes ambitious but needed policy goals for the region’s Parliamentary and Congressional delegations and federal leadership, as well as

aspirants for US President in 2008, an election in which Great Lakes states are central battlegrounds.

To attend this briefing, please RSVP to Charlene Janiga of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership at 716-541-1770 or by registering at [www.thepartnership.org/events](http://www.thepartnership.org/events) by Thursday, March 20, 2008.

Should you not be able to attend the meeting, but wish to receive information on the report or to learn more about the Great Lakes Economic Initiative, go to [www.brookings.edu/projects/great-lakes.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/projects/great-lakes.aspx), or contact John Austin, or Britany Affolter-Caine at: [jcaustin@umich.edu](mailto:jcaustin@umich.edu), or [baffolte@umich.edu](mailto:baffolte@umich.edu). Or you can reach us at 734-763-2249

Again thank you for your interest and collaboration and I look forward to seeing you on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

John Austin,  
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution  
Director Great Lakes Economic Initiative  
Vice- President, Michigan State Board of Education

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Senior Research Associate  
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