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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008

INVITATIONAL LUNCHEON

**REPORT RELEASE: BLUEPRINT FOR BI-NATIONAL PROSPERITY:  
RECLAIMING GREAT LAKES LEADERSHIP AS ECONOMIC ENGINE  
FOR U.S. AND CANADA**

with John Austin, Brookings Nonresident Senior Fellow, and co-authors Elaine Dezenski and Britany Affolter Caine



The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program will 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 U.S. 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 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 U.S. 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 centerpoint 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 U.S. 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 U.S. President in 2008, an election in which Great Lakes states are central battlegrounds.

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, visit [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). They can also be reached at 734-763-2249.

**12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon, presentation and discussion**  
**The Chicago Club, 81 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Illinois**  
**Free of charge; by invitation-only.**

To attend this briefing, please RSVP to Juliana Kerr Viohl at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs at 312-821-7511 or [jkerr@thechicagocouncil.org](mailto:jkerr@thechicagocouncil.org) no later than **Thursday, March 20, 2008**. Walk-ins will not be permitted.

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