CLIMATE IMPACTS TO PENNSYLVANIA’S LAKE ERIE TOURISM

**Mountain and Snow Tourism**

Rising temperatures will alter the distribution of species as they shift to conditions to which they are better adapted. Climate change may create new opportunities for non-native species to invade and replace native flora and fauna; however, new species could lead to new tourism opportunities through hunting, birding, and wildlife viewing.

**City and Urban Centers Tourism**

The built environment accounts for 20% of the sector’s climate impact; retrofitting or energy-efficient new buildings would cut emissions, as well as costs for local businesses leading to an increase in profits.

**Biodiversity**

Erie County is known for world class fishing and Presque Isle State Park, which helps drive local tourism. Climate change may alter the stream and lake ecosystems that support these attractions. Warmer temperatures and more extreme precipitation events are stressing aquatic habitats. Algal blooms also threaten to degrade Lake Erie beaches and the regional fishery.

**Beach, Lake, and Fisheries Tourism**

Rising Temperatures

- Risk: More frequent storm events and flooding can cause damage to lakes, beaches, and infrastructure. Species, some of which are invasive and can overpopulate native species for food and resources.

- Adaptation: Climate adaptation tools can help coastal communities prepare for increased heat stress, such as ice fishing, are also vulnerable.

**Agricultural Tourism**

Erie County is known for its wine country and fruit farming, which helps drive local tourism. Current and predicted changes will alter the growing season and fruit varieties that support this thriving industry. Extremes in temperature and precipitation are resulting in unreliable fruit crop yields.

**Risk:**

- Rising temperatures mean that fewer resorts will be able to rely upon sufficient snowfall.

**Mitigation:**

- Improved stormwater management, such as rain gardens, can reduce pollution and improve water quality in surrounding areas.

- Improved infrastructure such as streets and sidewalks can reduce heat island effects.

**Adaptation:**

- Winter sport resorts can adapt by marketing shorter seasons through longer ‘green seasons’ and ‘surf the snow’ opportunities.