

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2016 – *Ol9* 

DIVISION LIST	YES	NO	DATE: February 16, 2016
Councillor P. BORNEMAN Councillor B. HORNE Councillor B. KEITH Councillor J. MARSHALL Councillor D, McCANN Councillor K. SAULNIER Mayor J. McGARVEY			MOVED BY: SECONDED BY:
CARRIED: DEFEATED: _			Postponed to:

Whereas the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin represents approximately 20% of the world's surface freshwater resource and supports the third largest economy in the world; and

Whereas the City of Waukesha, WI has applied to use water from Lake Michigan as its source of drinking water to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and

Whereas the Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's (GLSLCI) Board has deemed that the request does not fall under the guidelines for "Public Water Supply Purposes" as Waukesha plans to supply water to outlying communities that do not fall under the "Community within a Straddling County" guidelines of the Agreement and Compact; and

Whereas the Mayors of the GLSLCI have called on the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and the Premiers Ontario and Québec and their representatives on the Regional Body and Compact Council to reject the Waukesha Application in its current form; and

Whereas the Council of the Town of Parry Sound passed Resolution 2016-010 on February 2, 2016 supporting the Mayors of the GLSLCI's position;

Therefore, Be It Resolves that Council for the Town of Parry Sound supports the formal resolution of the GLSLCI, Resolution 2016-1B, attached as Schedule "A", rejecting the City of Waukesha, WI's application in its present form; and

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Further, that this resolution be forwarded to the GLSLCI Board and to the Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne.

DEPUTY MAYOR



# GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

#### **RESOLUTION 2016-1B**

#### OPPOSING THE WAUKESHA WATER DIVERSION APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin represents approximately 20% of the world's surface freshwater resource and supports the third largest economy in the world;

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec signed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (the "Agreement"), and the Governors endorsed the companion Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (the "Compact"), which was later approved by the United States Congress and signed by the President, banning new water diversions from the Basin except in communities located in counties straddling the water division line between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin and other basins; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waukesha, WI, is located in Waukesha County, a county straddling the water division line; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waukesha has applied under the exception for a "Community within a Straddling County" to use water from Lake Michigan as its source of drinking water to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (the "Waukesha Application"); and

WHEREAS, the exception requires the diverted waters be used solely for the "Public Water Supply Purposes" of the specific "Community within a Straddling County" as defined in the Agreement and Compact; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has deemed the Waukesha Application approvable and forwarded it on January 7, 2016 to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) and Compact Council for its consensus decision; and

WHEREAS, all eight Great Lakes states must vote in favor of the Waukesha Application for it to go forward at a special meeting of the Compact Council in late spring 2016; and



WHEREAS, the Waukesha Application does not meet the terms of the Agreement nor the Compact, as there are significant questions about the necessity of the diversion to meet the drinking water quantity and quality needs of the City of Waukesha, among other concerns; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waukesha plans to provide water to a broader service area consisting of neighboring communities which have not demonstrated a need for a new water supply, contrary to the terms of the Agreement and Compact, and plans to do so based on broader water master plans rather than the specific demonstrated needs of the City of Waukesha; and

WHEREAS, this broader service area is not a "Community within a Straddling County" as defined and required by the exception in the Agreement and Compact; and

WHEREAS, the precedent-setting nature of the Waukesha Application is of great concern to the Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the proposed return flow of water to Lake Michigan through the Root River will cause significant changes to the ecosystem and to the urban shores of the mouth of the River; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body review process is inadequate as it provides for only one public meeting to be held in the City of Waukesha, resulting in far too limited public engagement on a matter of great regional, national, and international importance, contrary to the prescribed objectives of the Agreement and Compact; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body is not providing sufficient public information to residents in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body's decision on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Declaration of Finding, expected on April 21, 2016, allows for input from the eight US Great Lakes states, Ontario and Quebec, and will be key in the final Compact Council decision.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative reaffirm their commitment to the protection of our water resources by calling on the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec, and their representatives on the Regional Body and Compact Council to reject the Waukesha Application in its current form; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the Mayors urge the Governors and Premiers of the Regional Body and Compact Council, consistent with good public policy, to ensure complete transparency and full public engagement through open meetings,

Paul Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, New York, Secretary-Treasurer



webinars, websites and any other appropriate means of communication, including at least one public hearing in each of the ten jurisdictions included in this process.

Signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayor, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Ontario