



June 9, 2015

Governor John Kasich
State of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Governor Mike Pence
State of Indiana
200 W. Washington St., Rm. 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Governor Rick Snyder
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
State of Michigan

Premier Kathleen Wynne
Province of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
Canada

Dear Governors and Premier:

Because of continuing threats to Great Lakes drinking water from nutrient loadings and harmful algal blooms, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is calling on you as Governors and Premier to commit to reducing phosphorus flowing into Lake Erie by at least 40 percent.

As the summer season begins and our attention shifts to spending time on the water, I am concerned about harmful algal blooms that threaten our economy, drinking water and way of life. Unfortunately, we know all too well the havoc that harmful algal blooms can wreak, as the drinking water crisis in Toledo showed last August: families scrambling to find bottled water for drinking, cooking, bathing and other necessities. Without broad and swift action, harmful algal blooms will continue to damage the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system, putting our loved ones at risk.

That is why the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative convened the Mayors Drinking Water Summit in September 2014 to bring together mayors from around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to urge action to address this critical Great Lakes threat.

We clearly understand the root cause of the harmful algal bloom problem: phosphorus pollution. The primary source of this pollution is fertilizer run-off from farms, carried downstream and into western Lake Erie, and cities and industry contribute as well.

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John Dickert, Mayor of Racine, Chair

Mitch Twolan, Mayor of Huron-Kinloss, Vice-Chair

Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal, Secretary-Treasurer



When you gather on June 12-14 in Quebec City, Quebec for the Governors' and Premiers' Leadership Summit, hosted by the Council of Great Lakes Governors, we implore you to make a firm commitment to at least a 40 percent reduction target consistent with the International Joint Commission's proposal. We have to reduce the amount of phosphorus pollution leaving our farms and cities and entering our waterways.

All Lake Erie states and provinces need to do their part. We need a clear timetable for achieving at least a 40% reduction, with aggressive, firm, and consistent milestones and deadlines, and a monitoring plan to measure progress and make adjustments, if needed, to ensure improvements are made and deadlines are met.

Recent opinion research in Ohio confirms that these common sense actions are based on a concept that voters support. More than 70 percent of Ohio voters support "new, stronger (state) regulations to prevent farm run-off pollution that ends up in the state's rivers, streams, and Lake Erie."

We are all in this together, and we know that if we work together, we can protect the water quality of our Great Lakes—and the drinking water, quality of life and economy that the Great Lakes sustain. We have done it before. We must do it now.

Sincerely,

Mayor John Dickert, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Racine, Wisconsin