



Mister/Madam Chair, members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving the public opportunity to present in-person comments on this important project. My name is Simon Belisle, and I am a Program Manager with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of 117 mayors, representing over 17 million people in cities across the eight US Great Lakes states, Ontario and Quebec. The Cities Initiative works actively to advance the protection, restoration and long term sustainability of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin.

Mayors and municipal governments are the closest form of government to citizens. Our mayors certainly understand the importance of providing abundant, clean, safe and fairly-priced drinking water to their residents. They understand the responsibility of the City of Waukesha to achieve that. Our mayors are also very much aware of the importance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River as a resource for our quality of life, our economic well-being and as a source of drinking water.

Over the 12-year history of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, mayors have always expressed concern over any project, development or activity that would harm not only their city, but the entire Great Lakes region, its residents and the people who travel to them for

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business and pleasure. Despite being local officials, mayors understand the basin-wide dynamics of water management and are fierce defenders of the lakes and their health. This ever-present concern is the main reason why I am here representing them and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative does not believe the application for diversion of Great Lakes water for the City of Waukesha should go forward. Considering evidence that the City of Waukesha can achieve its role of providing abundant, clean and safe water to its residents at a lower cost than the Great Lakes water, which should only be used as a last resort, the precedent-setting nature of this application is too unsettling for it to go forward. Mayors do not want to see this diversion become the foot in the door through which Great Lakes water is taken away and sold to many regions of this country, or even abroad.

In addition to the precedent-setting nature of the City of Waukesha's application, our mayors have concerns regarding the geography of the water service area proposed in the application. The additional communities that are part of the service area have indicated that they do not need new sources of water now or in the foreseeable future. Also, these communities have not implemented the necessary water conservation measures to make themselves eligible to receive Great Lakes water under the rules of the Great Lakes Compact. Mayors of the Cities Initiative will not support a project that would be contrary to the terms of the Great Lakes and

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St. Lawrence Water Resources Management Compact, a fully effective and enforceable provision of Federal law.

Madam/Mister Chair and Committee, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative respectfully requests that you consider these comments submitted before you today.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative thanks the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for allowing public comments on such an important project which we firmly believe should not go forward.