



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

**RESOLUTION 12 – 2016M**

**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**, on May 18, 2016, the Regional Body reached agreement on a Declaration of Finding and a set of conditions for the Application to be approvable and that the Regional Body forwarded its recommendation to the Compact Council by a 9-0 vote, with one abstention; 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 on June 21, 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 service area recommended by the Regional Body to the Compact Council still contains parts of multiple communities which are not part of the City of Waukesha and which have not demonstrated a need for the water, amounting to a clear violation of the Compact; 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 provided for only one public meeting held in the City of Waukesha, and that the hundreds of public comments against the Application were largely ignored during the Regional Body process and that the conditions for approval debated by the Regional Body and Compact Council will not be open to public comment; 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 Declaration of Finding, sent on May 18, 2016, allowed for input from the eight US Great Lakes states, Ontario and Quebec, and that despite its non-binding nature, it 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 their representatives on the Compact Council to reject the Waukesha Application, the Regional Body’s Declaration of Finding and the conditions for approval it contains; 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, webinars, websites and any other appropriate means of communication, for this application and any other in the future.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016

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Mitch Twolan, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss