



Randy R. Hope



Municipality of Chatham-Kent

February 17, 2016

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

Dear Premier Wynne:

As a Great Lakes shoreline mayor and member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, an organization representing 121 United States and Canadian cities and over 17 million residents of our region, I am writing to express great concern over the Waukesha water diversion application recently submitted for approval under the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Management Compact and Agreement (Compact and Agreement). As a member of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body), the Province of Ontario is a key stakeholder with an important voice to protect 20% of the world's surface fresh water. We ask that as part of its role on the Regional Body, the Province of Ontario oppose the Waukesha application.

Mayors of the Cities Initiative are on record opposing the application because it does not meet the requirements of the Compact and Agreement and recently passed the attached resolution. The City of Waukesha has a reasonable alternative to a diversion to provide drinking water at a much lower cost to its taxpayers. In addition, the City of Waukesha plans to provide water to an expanded service area, which does not constitute a community under the terms of the Compact and Agreement. There are also significant concerns about the return flow to Lake Michigan through the Root River. As the first application considered under the Compact and Agreement, approval could set a very dangerous precedent.

In addition, the public engagement process is seriously flawed. The Regional Body and Compact Council reviewing the application plans to hold only one public meeting in Waukesha. Something of this significance requires full public engagement across all eight U.S. and two Canadian jurisdictions. We thank the Province of Ontario for having a public comment period as an example of good public policy leading to an informed decision.

Mayors of the Cities Initiative ask you, as Premier of Ontario, to help protect our freshwater resource and, in the interest of sound public policy, advocate for full public engagement and oppose the Waukesha diversion application and the April 21, 2016 meeting of the Regional Body and Compact Council in Chicago, IL.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Hope, Mayor/CEO, Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
Board of Directors, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

cc. Minister Bill Mauro, Natural Resources and Forestry