

Christian C. Provenzano B.A., LL.B.
Mayor



Corporation of the City of
Sault Ste. Marie

September 20, 2016

SENT VIA E-MAIL

International Joint Commission
Great Lakes Regional Office
P.O. Box 32869
Detroit, MI
48232

RE: Waukesha, WI, Water Diversion Application

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I am writing you to formally protest the unprecedented decision by the Great Lakes Compact Council to allow the City of Waukesha, Wisconsin to divert water from Lake Michigan. A resolution passed by our Council on September 12, 2016 reiterating the same is attached for your reference.

Waukesha falls outside the Great Lakes Basin. It was able to have its application heard by the Great Lakes Compact Council through what amounts to a technicality. The need for Waukesha to have clean drinking water is not in dispute. However, as the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has long argued, the community has other, simpler options available to them besides diverting water from the Great Lakes. The necessary precondition of having "no reasonable water supply alternative available" has not been satisfied.

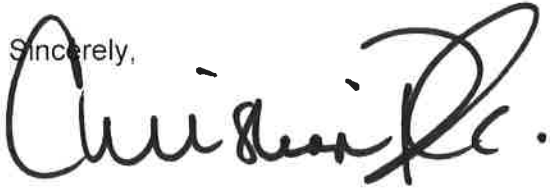
What is most troubling about the prospect of this diversion application moving ahead is the precedent it will set for future decisions. If this decision is allowed to stand, it can be reasonably foreseen that the future will bring more diversion applications from communities that lie farther afield of the Great Lakes basin—ones that in some cases will not be reasonably expected to return water to the Great Lakes watershed.

In hydrological terms, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are considered to be part of the same body of water. As such, Waukesha's proposed diversion may need to be scrutinized within the framework of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect Lake Michigan-Huron and that both Canadian and American interests are protected.

/2

In closing, I ask that the International Joint Commission to review and if possible delay the implementation of Waukesha's water diversion plan. I also encourage you, in your capacity as a quasi-judicial body and an arbiter of decisions regarding trans-national water resources, to urge the Great Lakes Compact Council to suspend their decision to grant Waukesha's diversion request pending further review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Provenzano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a distinct "P" at the end.

Christian Provenzano

c.c. City Clerk
City Councillors
Council of Great Lakes Governors

Attachments: (1)



CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Agenda Number: 8.3
Title: Diversion of Water from the Great Lakes
Date: Monday, September 12, 2016

Moved by: Councillor S. Butland
Seconded by: Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that Council authorize Mayor Provenzano to write a letter of protest to the International Joint Commission opposing the decision by eight state governors to allow the diversion of up to 8.2 million gallons of water per day from Lake Michigan by the City of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Carried **Postponed**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christian Provenzano", is written over the "Carried" and "Postponed" options.

Defeated

**Officially Read and Not
Dealt With**

Christian Provenzano