

Office of the County Warden

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SENT VIA EMAIL

January 28, 2016

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700 Chicago, Illinois 60606 USA

Attn: David A. Ullrich, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Ullrich:

Re: Resolution 2016-1B Opposing the Waukesha Water Diversion Application

Please be informed that Lambton County Council, at its January 20, 2016 committee meetings endorsed the attached resolution 2016-1B regarding the proposed diversion of water.

Please contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Bev MacDougall County Warden

Marilyn Gladu, M.P. Sarnia-Lambton Riding cc:

Bob Bailey, M.P.P. Sarnia-Lambton Riding





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

RESOLUTION 2016-1B

OPPOSING THE WAUKESHA WATER DIVERSION APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin represents approximately 20% of the world's 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, 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 to use water from Lake Michigan at its source of drinking water to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has deemed the diversion 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, all eight Great Lakes states must vote in favor of the application for it to go forward to a special meeting of the Compact Council in late spring 2016; and

WHEREAS, the application does not meet the terms of the Compact, as there are significant questions about the necessity of the diversion to meet the drinking water quantity and quality needs of Waukesha and other concerns; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waukesha plans to provide water to its neighboring communities which have not demonstrated a need for a new water supply, contrary to the terms of the Compact; and

WHEREAS, the precedent-setting nature of the Waukesha water diversion 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 provides for only one public meeting to be held in Waukesha, resulting in far too limited public engagement on a matter of great regional, national, and international importance; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body is not providing sufficient public information to Basin residents, and

WHEREAS, the Regional Body's decision on Wisconsin DNR's Declaration of Finding, expected on April 21, 2016, allows for input from the eight US Great Lakes states, Ontario and Quebec, and 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 the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec, and their representatives on the Regional Body and Compact Council to reject the Waukesha water diversion application in its current form; 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, including at least one public hearing in each of the 10 jurisdictions included in this process