



**Town of Whitby
Office of the Town Clerk**

575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8
www.whitby.ca

February 10, 2016

David A. Ullrich, Executive Director
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Phone: 312.201.4516
david.ullrich@glslcities.org

Re: Correspondence Number 2016-23 from David A. Ullrich, Executive Director,
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative dated January 15, 2016 regarding
Waukesha Diversion Application - Resolution for Member Comments

Please be advised that at a meeting held on February 8, 2016, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following recommendation:

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; and,

Whereas, on December 13, 2015, the Great Lakes Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec 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 as its source of drinking water to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and,

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 and decision; and,

Whereas, all eight Great Lakes states must vote in favour 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 neighbouring 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 Council of the Town of Whitby, a member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, reaffirm its 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 Quebec, 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 Council of the Town of Whitby 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 meeting, 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.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905-430-4302.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH' with a flourish.

Chris Harris
Town Clerk

