



DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Program DG/5
Attn: Adam Freihoefer
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Oral Comments of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative at WDNR's March 7, 2018 Public Hearing in Sturtevant, WI Regarding the Racine Water Diversion

Introduction:

- Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today on the City of Racine and Racine Water Utility straddling community diversion application. My name is Melissa Soline and I am a program manager with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.
- The Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of more than 130 US and Canadian Mayors and other local officials that works with federal, state and provincial governments and other stakeholders to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Cities Initiative's Major Concerns:

- The Cities Initiative supports economic growth within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin with the understanding that it cannot be achieved by compromising the protection of natural resources and the environment.
- The Cities Initiative is concerned about withdrawals and return flows associated with the Racine diversion application related, in part, to the Foxconn Technology Group development project in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin.
- We have specific concerns in this instance regarding upholding the integrity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Compact, maintaining water quality, and ensuring environmental compliance.
- *Great Lakes Compact*— with respect to the Racine diversion application, the Cities Initiative strongly urges that the legal requirements of the Great Lakes Compact be met in order to safeguard the sustainability of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence water resources.
- *Water Quality*—all wastewater discharged to the Racine Wastewater Utility must meet, or be pretreated to meet, applicable water quality standards including federal and state categorical pretreatment standards and local limits established by the City of Racine.
- *Environmental Compliance*—The Cities Initiative strongly urges the State of Wisconsin, and as necessary the appropriate federal agencies, to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations related to air, water and waste matters.



Conclusion

- Transparency and accountability are of utmost importance when it comes to water diversions and water use in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin to ensure our water resources are available for future generations.
- While we support and encourage economic growth in the Basin and welcome companies who work with municipalities to proactively build communities that benefit business, residents, and the environment, we cannot do so at the expense of our water resources and the environment.
- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River support significant ecosystems, a \$5.8 trillion binational economy, and provide drinking water to more than 40 million people. Economic development and environmental sustainability must go hand in hand in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region in order to ensure the health and vitality of the people of this region, our communities and our economies.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments today.