

SAVE THE GREAT LAKES!

NO DIVERSIONS * NO EXCEPTIONS



Concerned about the risk of long-range Great Lakes water exports, the Great Lakes State Governors and Canadian Premiers signed an agreement to defend against water raids in 1985. Known as the Great Lakes Charter, it was never fully implemented by the states and provinces.

After an Ontario company received a permit to take up to 50 tankers of water from Lake Superior in 1998, the Governors and Premiers proposed to toughen the Great Lakes Charter with new agreements. The goal was to build a stronger legal and natural resource-based defense against harmful water uses and exports. The draft agreements that are now being circulated for public comment are the result of that process.

Now, 2005 may be the year in which it's finally signed... but before the Council of Great Lakes Governors signs this charter, your voice needs to be heard! Write to the governors and demand the following:

**KEEP THE GREAT LAKES A PUBLIC,
NOT A PRIVATE RESOURCE**

CLOSE WATER DIVERSION LOOPHOLES

THE PUBLIC MUST BE CONSULTED

Submit your comments to the Council of Great Lakes Governors

The Council of Great Lakes Governors will be accepting comments through **Aug. 29, 2005**, on the second draft of the Great Lakes Annex.

EMAIL: annex2001@cglg.org

WEB: <http://cglg.org/comments/index.asp>

MAIL: David Naftzger
Executive Director
Council of Great Lakes Governors
35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

In the United States:
Cyndi Roper
croper@cleanwater.org
www.cleanwateraction.org/mi



In Canada:
Susan Howatt
showatt@canadians.org
www.canadians.org

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KEEP THE GREAT LAKES A PUBLIC, NOT A PRIVATE RESOURCE

Both the draft interstate Compact and the Agreement between the Great Lakes States and Provinces fail to state clearly that it is the policy of the governments to oppose commercialization and privatization of Great Lakes Basin water. This glaring oversight is inexcusable at a time of rising pressure for bottled water exports and the recent history of proposals to take water from the Great Lakes for private profit. Both documents should recognize that water, precious to life, is and will remain a public trust resource and that the respective governments will deploy all legal means available to prevent privatization and commercialization of Great Lakes Basin water.

CLOSE WATER DIVERSION LOOPHOLES

The draft interstate Compact contains loopholes allowing water to be exported out of the Basin anywhere within counties that "straddle" the watershed. This means water could be diverted out of the Great Lakes, in some cases even without approval by the other states and Canadian provinces. At present, two billion gallons of water is withdrawn from the Great Lakes every day through the Chicago diversion. By far the largest water taking, this diversion will not be restricted by the draft documents, and could be permitted to increase by three times, with no assurances that conservation or protective measures will be implemented.

Although "return flow" of the water after consumptive use is required, creating an artificial boundary that allows even limited exports will weaken the ability of the Great Lakes states and provinces to argue against longer-distance exports in the future. There is also no guarantee of a minimum amount of water to be returned after use. The limits of the Great Lakes Basin should be the limits within which its water is conserved and managed. The current draft document completely exempts containers under 20 liters from the definition of a diversion. We must demand that water exported out of the Great Lakes watershed in bottles be treated with the same tough restrictions as water proposed for export in freighters or pipelines.

THE PUBLIC MUST BE CONSULTED

The public consultation process has been demoted to very limited 'information sessions' held over a 60-day period during the summer months. This is unacceptable, especially given the short notice of public meetings. This process has effectively left citizens out. The Great Lakes Annex Implementing Agreements will have serious implications for communities for generations to come - education and genuine consultation must be a priority. In addition, there are no assurances the limited public input during this consultation will be respected in the next draft of the Agreements. Public consultations should be extended to October with another round of negotiations and consultations to follow.

**Attend a public meeting in your area on this important issue.
Visit the Council of Great Lakes Governors Website (www.cglg.org)
for a list of public meetings in your area.**

Make your views known!

In the United States:
Cyndi Roper
croper@cleanwater.org
www.cleanwateraction.org/mi



In Canada:
Susan Howatt
showatt@canadians.org
www.canadians.org