



**Committee of Advisors  
to the  
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING DIVERSION OF GREAT LAKES WATER TO WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN**

The City of Waukesha, which is totally outside the basin, has applied for a diversion permit. The following statements emphasize application concerns and to ensure and advocate for the strongest possible protections for the GREAT LAKES. Concluded eight years ago, the GREAT LAKES COMPACT is at a crucial point in protecting the integrity of all the GREAT LAKES.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waukesha is entirely outside the Great Lakes basin but is in Waukesha County which straddles the Lake Michigan and Mississippi River basins;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waukesha has applied to withdraw 10.1 million gallons per day of water from Lake Michigan;

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Sustainable Resources Agreement and the corresponding Great Lakes Compact bans the export of water out of the Great Lakes basin except for certain specified exceptions;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waukesha has made this application under the “exception” provision of the Agreement for communities within a straddling county;

**WHEREAS**, this is the first application under the “exception” provision in the Agreement, the Waukesha diversion would set a precedent for interstate management of the Great Lakes for present and future generations;

**WHEREAS**, The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Regional Body, in May 2016, recommended approval of Waukesha’s diversion contingent upon many revisions including the following two:

- Prohibiting distribution of water beyond the city limits of Waukesha, and
- Reducing the allowed diversion from 10.1 million gallons to 8.2 million gallons per day;

**WHEREAS**, these provisions do not adequately justify an “exception” because of inadequacies including:

- Failure to show that no other alternative could take care of the community’s needs;
- Inadequate commitments for water conservation;
- Inadequate return flow provisions;
- Inadequate assessment of cumulative impacts;

**WHEREAS**, the public has overwhelmingly opposed Waukesha’s request for Great Lakes water;

*The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waukesha's diversion request could set a dangerous precedent and encourage future applications for water diversion out of the Great Lakes basin;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission opposes Waukesha's request for diversion;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors urges the eight Great Lakes states to veto the City of Waukesha's application at its upcoming Great Lakes Compact Council meeting;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors urges the provincial premiers to communicate their ongoing concerns to the Great Lakes Compact Council; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors urges the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to communicate this opposition to the governors who form the Great Lakes Compact Council.

Passed unanimously

June 9, 2016

U.S. and Canadian Committee of Advisors

*The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.*