

## Chair's Letter

At the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Leadership Summit in Milwaukee on December 13, I was honored to accept the Chair's gavel from my Co-Chair, Ohio Governor Bob Taft. Governor Taft has left a tremendous legacy and, as Chair, I am eager to work with each of you to build on our recent successes.



Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

We have generated tremendous momentum to promote our regional economy and protect our Great Lakes. At the Summit, we heard from two prominent speakers, Bill Testa and Bob Stempel, about the economic challenges facing our region and how we can stimulate sustainable development. Clearly, a healthy and restored Great Lakes must be at the center of our plans if we are to maintain our competitive advantage.

My fellow Great Lakes Governors and Premiers joined me on December 13 in signing agreements to implement the Great Lakes Charter Annex. These agreements update the way we manage the Great Lakes by prohibiting long-distance diversions, jumpstarting conservation efforts and creating a long-term means to better protect the Great Lakes. We urge our State legislators to quickly ratify the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

More broadly, we now have a long-term plan to guide our protection and restoration efforts through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. This Strategy was adopted by regional and national leaders on December 12 in Chicago.

We also included a near-term agenda in a December 12 letter from our region's Governors and Mayors to President Bush. We must work with Congressional leaders and others to ensure that no time is lost in initiating these critical investments.

2006 holds tremendous promise for our region and for the Great Lakes—together, we can turn that promise into progress.

—Jim Doyle

Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors  
Governor, State of Wisconsin



The Annex Implementing Agreements are signed.

## Annex Agreements Signed to Protect the Great Lakes

Great Lakes Governors and Premiers recently signed historic agreements providing unprecedented protections for the waters of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

The December 13th signing in Milwaukee culminated nearly four years of discussions about how the eight States and two Provinces could create laws governing water use that would be meaningful and protect the resource.

"The waters of the Great Lakes are a shared treasure," said Ohio Governor Bob Taft, Council of Great Lakes Governors Co-Chair.

"After many months of discussions, refinements and considerable help from citizens throughout the Basin, we have reached an agreement on how we can improve the management of the region's water, our most valuable natural resource."

The agreements, which include a ban on new diversions of water outside the Basin with limited exceptions, were

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1) signed by the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec.

“Each Premier and each Governor had to compromise, but there’s one thing none of us would compromise and that is the future of the Great Lakes,” said Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, Council Co-Chair and host of the Leadership Summit.

“The Great Lakes are not only vital economic and recreational resources for our region, but they are a part of who we are, and these agreements will ensure their conservation for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.”

The agreements provide a framework for each State and Province to enact laws protecting the Basin.

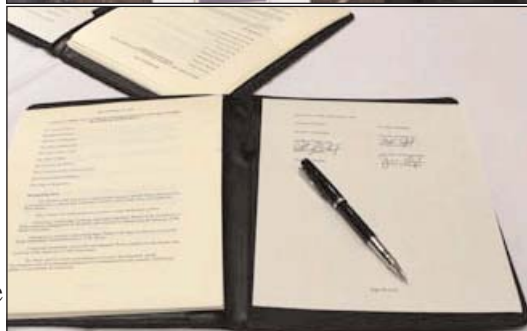
The full text of the agreements can be found at [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org). The agreements include the following key points:

\*A ban on new diversions of water. Limited exceptions could be allowed, such as for public water supply purposes in communities near the Basin, but exceptions would be strictly regulated.

\*The States and Provinces will use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Great Lakes water.

\*The collection of technical data will be strengthened, and the States and Provinces will share information, which will improve decision-making by governments.

\*Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency will be developed, and they will be reviewed every five years. Each State and Province will develop and implement a water



Above: Governor Bob Taft (Ohio) and Governor Jim Doyle (Wisconsin) discuss the Annex Implementing Agreements at the Council's Leadership Summit in Milwaukee. Below: The signed agreements.

conservation and efficiency program.

\*Lasting economic development will be balanced with sustainable water use to ensure Great Lakes waters are managed responsibly.

\*The waters of the Basin are recognized as a shared public treasure, and there is a strong commitment to continued public involvement in the implementation of the agreements.

The agreements were well received on both sides of the border.

“Ten different governments in two separate countries are giving voice to their shared desire to protect one of the continent’s most precious natural resources,” said Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, who attended the Summit.

“Our signatures here today mean that Great Lakes water will stay in the Great Lakes for the benefit of all.”

“The Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, and everyone living around the lakes, have always been committed to the preservation of them,” said Governor Doyle, who was elected Chair of the Council and began his duties at the Leadership Summit.

“Today, we have translated that commitment into an agreement that provides balanced and practical management of this precious resources for years to come.”

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