



July 23, 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steven C. LaTourette
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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ROD BLAGOJEVICH
Governor of Illinois

MITCH DANIELS
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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

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Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

TED STRICKLAND
Governor of Ohio

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

Dear Friends:

We the Great Lakes Governors greatly applaud your leadership in introducing a joint resolution providing Congress's consent to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact). We sincerely appreciate your commitment to protect the Great Lakes.

As you know, Congress was instrumental in encouraging the States to develop this Compact. Specifically, in 2000 the U.S. Congress encouraged "the Great Lakes States, in consultation with the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, to develop and implement a mechanism that provides a common conservation standard embodying the principles of water conservation and resource improvement for making decisions concerning the withdrawal and use of water from the Great Lakes Basin," when it passed amendments to the Water Resources Development Act. This Act also recognized the Governors' authority over Great Lakes diversions.

As a result of this Congressional action as well as past commitments made by the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec have worked aggressively to update and improve the region's water management regime. Following a nearly five-year development process that involved thousands of people, the Governors endorsed the Compact on December 13, 2005. For the Compact to come into effect, it must be ratified by each of the Great Lakes States and consented to by the U.S. Congress.

On July 9, 2008, the Great Lakes States completed their ratification of the Compact. We are now eager to work together with you to obtain Congressional consent and turn the Compact's protections into law. We applaud your leadership in introducing a joint Congressional resolution in order to complete this historic process.

Thank you for your commitment to ensure that the Great Lakes are sustainably managed for the benefit of generations to come. If we can be of assistance as our shared efforts move forward, please do not hesitate to contact us or David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors.

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Sincerely,



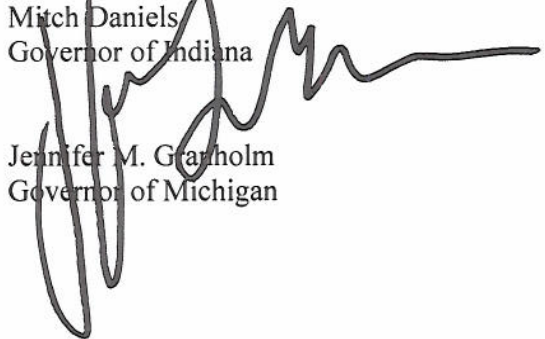
Jim Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors



Rod Blagojevich
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