

September 30, 2010

The Honourable Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Natural Resources
6th Floor, Room 6630,
Whitney Block,
99 Wellesley St. W.,
Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 1W3

The Honourable John Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON
M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Jeffery and Minister Wilkinson,

Re. The Annex Advisory Panel and Ontario's Continuing Role in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement

We are writing you as members of Ontario's Annex Advisory Panel which was established in December 2004, to ensure that key stakeholders and experts are fully engaged during implementation of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement. Some members of this Panel of over fifty stakeholders have been involved in Great Lakes withdrawal, diversion and sustainability issues since 1985. During this time Ontario has shown exceptional leadership in opposing harmful diversions from the region, was one of the first jurisdictions to implement a strong permitting system for water use and was instrumental in achieving the basin-wide ban on diversions contained in this precedent setting Agreement.

It has been sometime since our last Annex Advisory Panel meeting. We are anxious to have another meeting soon and hope that you both will be able to attend and meet your Panel members. We have been grateful for the Province's commitment to the collaborative approach that has been pioneered with our Panel during and following negotiations on the Agreement.

We are concerned at this crucial period of implementation that our Panel continues to be active in consultations to shape the strongest possible Ontario conservation strategy and to put rules in place for intra-basin diversion exceptions. We had anticipated these regulations to the Ontario Water Resources

Act last fall in order to keep pace with the eight Great Lakes States on their Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact implementation schedule even though that schedule differs from the Agreement schedule. There is now additional urgency because the first diversion proposal is now being prepared by the City of Waukesha for review soon by the Regional Body. We hope to discuss and support Ontario's position on this proposal which will be the first important test of the Compact and Agreement.

We are looking forward to meeting you both and furthering Ontario's important leadership on water protection in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

Yours truly,
Annex Advisory Panel Members

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