



Canadian Environmental Law Association

July 14, 2011

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty,

Re: Urgent Ontario action needed on Ohio legislation on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement

As two members of Ontario's Agreement Advisory Panel, we are writing to urge you to take immediate action to ensure that flawed legislation in Ohio does not undermine the success and integrity of the hard won Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (Agreement) and the US Great Lakes Water Resources Compact (Compact).

The Ohio General Assembly has passed legislation (Sub H.B. 231) that is inconsistent with the Regional Agreement and the Compact. We have attached a factsheet put together by several Ohio's organizations explaining the problems with the legislation. We here extract the description from that factsheet of how the legislation is contrary to the Regional Agreement and Compact (Attachment 1):

The bill attempts to re-write the Compact by:

Limiting Ohio Department of Natural Resources to judge only impacts (from water withdrawals and consumptive uses) to the whole Lake Erie basin, rather than to both the Lake Erie basin *and* the streams and rivers and groundwater that feeds Lake Erie—in direct violation of the Compact;

Measuring only physical individual impacts from water withdrawals and consumptive uses, rather than physical, chemical and biological impacts—in direct violation of the Compact;

Not considering cumulative impacts to Lake Erie, its tributaries, and ground water—in

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Attachment 1

similar thresholds or if a multitude of large withdrawals (below the five million gallon threshold) go unmanaged throughout the Great Lakes Region. These consequences are far too dire to ignore.

For all of these reasons, I ask that you urge the Governor to veto this legislation so the Compact will not be compromised and Ohio may continue to act as a good neighbor to protect the Great Lakes that we share.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Martens

Permalink: <http://readme.readmedia.com/NYSDECs-Martens-Warns-Ohio-on-Water-Withdrawal-Legislation/2829373>