

July 14, 2011

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

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 Premier McGuinty, Minister Jeffrey and Minister Wilkinson,

**Re. Urgent Ontario actions needed 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 two immediate actions to ensure the success and integrity of the hard won Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

Over the last several weeks the US media in the Great Lakes region has been dominated by articles and editorials critical of the State of Ohio's legislation to implement the US Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) and their obligations as signatories with the Canadian Provinces of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement. A number of these articles can be viewed here: <http://www.great-lakes.net/dailynews/isearch.html> by searching "Compact".

**First Request**

The next several days will determine whether Ohio will be acting to address the flaws in their legislation which undercut the terms of the Agreement and could

## **Attachment 1**

News from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

For more information contact: Emily DeSantis, 518-817-7842

### **NYS DEC's Martens Warns Ohio on Water Withdrawal Legislation**

ALBANY, NY (07/13/2011)(readMedia)-- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens today sent the following letter to his counterpart in Ohio to express New York's concerns with Ohio's Water Withdrawal legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly yesterday.

July 13, 2011

Mr. David Mustine

Director

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

2045 Morse Road, Building D-3

Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

Re: Ohio Water Withdrawal Legislation and the Great Lakes Compact

Dear Director Mustine:

I am writing to encourage you to recommend the Governor's veto of legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly yesterday that could fundamentally unravel our Great Lakes Compact (Compact). The bill would essentially provide for no governmental approval or conditions for withdrawals of up to five million gallons of water per day from Lake Erie. A lower, but equally unacceptable, threshold of two million gallons would apply to most tributaries. The thresholds contained in the legislation are far too high and if enacted would defeat and undermine the measures taken by other Great Lakes States and Provinces.

A fundamental premise of the Compact is that the Great Lakes States and Canadian Provinces share a tremendous, yet fragile, resource. Comprising 18 percent of the world's available fresh water, the Great Lakes are a vestige of the last ice age whose waters are only replenished once every one hundred years. Consequently, they can be drawn down and dramatically damaged by unbridled water withdrawals, a situation that the Compact was designed to prevent. With this in mind, the New York Legislature recently passed NYS DEC's legislative proposal to manage all water withdrawals of 100,000 gallons per day or more.

If this legislation becomes law, the Great Lakes could be harmed irreparably. It could lower the Lakes' water levels affecting ports, marinas and wetland habitats including important fish spawning grounds. The legislation also stands to impair New York's and others' ability to