

Ambassador Gary Doer

March 22, 2013

Embassy of Canada

via fax: 202) 682-7726

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Dear Ambassador Doer,

Regarding the Proposed Waukesha Great Lakes Water Diversion

On World Water Day, I would like to thank you very much for raising the issue of water diversion from the Great Lakes in your recent interview with Wisconsin Public Radio. I am writing to you in my personal capacity. I served on a Public Advisory Panel to the Ontario Government during the negotiations of the *Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement* and during initial consultations on the implementation of the *Agreement* in Ontario.

You need to be aware that Ontario is the sole jurisdiction that has **not** yet acted to regulate Intra-Basin Transfers and their conservation strategy required by the *Agreement*. Public interest members of Ontario's Advisory Panel have advocated in vain for this implementation with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Previous Premier McGuinty since 2006.

We are concerned that the lack of action by Ontario could compromise the ability of other jurisdictions to fully apply the *Agreement* to the Waukesha Diversion proposal expected to be reviewed this summer. This is because this *Agreement* does not come into full force until **all** jurisdictions have implemented the *Agreement*. The Waukesha proposal will be the first test of the effectiveness of this historic *Agreement* and could set important precedents for what promises to be a water-short future. We are baffled as to why Ontario has delayed implementation. In order for the *Agreement* to be in full force, Ontario will need to act precipitously to both secure regulations and get their passage through the legislature prior to ending their session for the summer.

Should this not transpire, Ontario may have to participate in the regional review of the Waukesha proposal by using procedures under the *1985 Great Lakes Charter* rather than the *Agreement* protocol. This further complicates an already complex endeavor. Any influence your offices could exert would be greatly appreciated by all constituents who have worked so hard to secure these protections for the Great Lakes. I would be happy to discuss my concerns further with your staff. Thank you for making your recent statement. I can be reached by e-mail sarah.miller@sympatico.ca or by leaving a phone message at my home 416) 203-0821.

Yours truly,

Sarah Miller

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