



GREAT LAKES UNITED

Great Lakes United Resolution Summaries 1983 - 1986

AIR POLLUTION/FALLOUT: The impacts of airborne toxic pollution on the water quality, public health and natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin is of great concern to the member organizations of Great Lakes United. In order to adequately control the emissions of airborne toxic pollutants, the U.S. and Canadian governments must fund research and monitoring programs, adopt standards for at least ninety known toxic air pollutants, require governmental agencies to issue public health and safety standards and work towards international air quality agreements similar to those established for water quality. Sources such as municipal solid waste incinerators, processing plants and sewage treatment facilities must be controlled with Best Available Control Technology.

In addition, the delegates concurred that because atmospheric deposition is a global problem, the governments of both the U.S. and Canada must act to institute effective policies to reduce acid precipitation. Among these, a strong Clean Air Act must be re-established by the U.S. with an objective of a 50 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions and a four million ton reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions by 1995. "Best Available Technology" should be required for all new and existing plants. The Canadian government should establish standards at least as strict as, or equivalent to, U.S. standards.

WATER QUALITY: Protecting both water quality and water quantity in the Great Lakes Basin is of primary importance to Great Lakes United. The G.L.U. task forces urge increased public and governmental participation in the implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978 between Canada and the U.S. Such said policy recommendations deal with the disposal/transportation of hazardous polluting substances, examinations of sediment contamination and the researching of impacts on drinking water. G.L.U. urges Congress to reauthorize a Clean Water Act which would control toxic substances, establish anti-backsliding provisions, include Great Lakes Language, develop non-point pollution control programs, protect the wetlands, and provide adequate construction grant monies. G.L.U. also petitions Congress to fully restore funding to federal Great Lakes research programs and monitoring activities on the Great Lakes. Be it further resolved that Great Lakes United is continuing its efforts to encourage the State, Provincial and Federal governments in developing alternative methods for setting better standards and control of industrial discharges to municipal treatment systems.

HAZARDOUS WASTES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES: Great Lakes United is promoting the reauthorization of the federal "Superfund" program at a funding level no less than \$10.1 billion. This program would address the past problems of improper disposal of hazardous waste by cleaning up existing hazardous waste sites and prevent any further contamination of groundwater. G.L.U. supports excavation and environmentally sound destruction methods for treating Superfund sites, instead of relying on governmental initiatives designed to contain these wastes in existing landfills. The organization supports increased funding for monitoring, investigation and enforcement to regulate discharges of toxic pollutants and carcinogenic substances. In addition, governments will be urged to increase the right-to-know legislation as well as honoring the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. G.L.U. will proceed to act on the basis of the adopted policy positions on control of toxics by pressing for stricter controls on discharges and promote alternatives to the generation, land burial and discharge of toxic hazardous substances. Special focus will be on the need for the development of a comprehensive waste management plan within the basin with emphasis on source reduction, recycling, destruction and other alternative treatment technologies to land burial. To this end, G.L.U. supports the newly signed toxic substance control agreement by the Great Lakes jurisdictions. The organization is dedicated to ensuring that its principles are pursued and public participation is a major component of the process.

"An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River"

24 Agassiz Circle Buffalo, New York 14214 (716) 886-0142



LEVELS, FLOWS AND DIVERSIONS: Great Lakes United reaffirms its opposition to any new diversions out of or into the Great Lakes Basin. G.L.U. will work with state and provincial governments to demonstrate a commitment to implementing the Great Lakes Charter. G.L.U. opposes the Ohio River Canal Project and the Canadian Grand Canal proposal. Both projects are in conflict with the goals and objectives of the Great Lakes Charter and are environmentally unsound. G.L.U. supports water conservation planning, programs, and measures not only in the Great Lakes region but also throughout the United States and Canada. In response to concerns of high water levels, G.L.U. supports the review of ecologically sound approaches to minimize shoreline damage, but does not support "quick-fix" scenarios which will have long-term impacts to the Great Lakes Basin.

NAVIGATION: Great Lakes United will take on a role in being a navigation "watchdog" for the Great Lakes Basin and its members will work toward the goals and objectives of G.L.U. resolutions on commercial navigation. Tactics involved in this strategy include limitations on the transportation of hazardous substances, applying stringent safety measures, clean-up provisions, and ensuring proper monitoring and enforcement of uniform regulations between Canada and the U.S. Great Lakes United, at this time, is opposed to the proposed Sault Ste. Marie Lock until it can be shown to be economically and environmentally feasible. The organization, furthermore, recommends opposition to all proposed navigational projects that require extension of the shipping season, construction of new locks, or enlargement of ship channels until fully acceptable environmental and economic analyses are made.

FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT: Great Lakes United urges strict protection of fish and wildlife habitat, especially wetlands, from human intrusions and calls for cooperation between the U.S. and Canada in developing fisheries and wildlife management programs. Sensitive habitats, such as Strawberry Island in the Niagara River, should be protected and increased governmental assistance and funds should be provided. G.L.U. supports the federal Clean Water Act which provides protection for wetlands, supports programs which provide for the removal of subsidies for production of surplus crops on wetlands and recommends the elimination of federal, state and provincial tax incentives for draining and clearing of wetlands.

LAND USE: Great Lakes United places a special emphasis on the need for an urgent reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act which allows state and federal governments to collectively manage more than 95,000 miles of beaches, bays, ports and harbors, wetlands, estuaries, islands and fisheries throughout the U.S. G.L.U. also supports the 1985 Farm Bill and urges that Federal subsidies for production of surplus crops on wetlands be eliminated. G.L.U. supports the need for special emphasis and funding to be provided for additional acquisition of estuarine sanctuaries for protection and study. G.L.U. is opposed to the privatization of U.S. Forest Service lands and state public lands which must be maintained in perpetuity from misuse and exploitation.

ENERGY DISTRIBUTION AND DEVELOPMENT: Great Lakes United is seeking to actively promote new federal, state, provincial and local regulations to deal with nuclear waste and the safe transportation of this high level waste within the Great Lakes Basin. The U.S. and Canadian governments are also being urged to immediately disqualify any consideration or plans that deal with potential sites for nuclear waste repositories in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence watershed. Energy conservation programs, researching alternative energy sources, and the continued exploration of waste-to-energy conversion should be of the highest priority in energy development policy. All new technologies, especially waste-to-energy, should utilize the best available control technologies and have stringent environmental standards to prevent the release of hazardous material into the air and water of the basin.

EDUCATION: Great Lakes United encourages the development of educational programs concerned with environmental issues in order to facilitate the need to increase public participation in improving the quality of the Great Lakes environment. Great Lakes Week encompasses all of G.L.U.'s goals of educating citizens about the basin's history, ecology and resource management issues; and to focus attention upon the Great Lakes ecosystem.

For further information contact: **David Miller, Executive Director, Great Lakes United, 24 Agassiz Circle, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214, 716-886-0142.**