

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR GREAT LAKES UNITED

### A TOXICS FREEZE

WHEREAS, because of continuing problems from toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes, all of the governments of the U.S., Canada, the States and Provinces have committed themselves to programs and efforts to clean up and restore the Great Lakes. These commitments are contained in the U.S./Canadian Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Great Lakes Governors' Toxic Substances Control Agreement, Ontario's Municipal and Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA), and the U.S. Clean Water Act (including its 1987 Great Lakes Amendment); and

WHEREAS, the fundamental principle behind these agreements, laws and programs is that the discharge of persistent toxic substances must be reduced and ultimately eliminated in accordance with the goal of zero discharge; and

WHEREAS, because of concerns over the effects of toxic substances on the health of humans, fish, birds and wildlife, the public and citizens' organizations across the basin have repeatedly endorsed the goal of virtual elimination and zero discharge. At the same time, the public has expressed dissatisfaction and impatience over the lack of concrete government action or progress toward implementing and achieving this goal; and

WHEREAS, the governments of the Great Lakes continue to permit the dumping of toxic substances into the Great Lakes basin and its tributaries, including new and increased discharges of toxic substances. This dumping continues, in part because discharge permits are usually designed to control harmful concentrations of toxic substances in the immediate vicinity of the discharge and fail to control the cumulative impacts from the total mass loadings of toxic substances from all sources in the eventual downstream receiving waters -- the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, a logical first step in a strategy to control, reduce and ultimately eliminate the discharge of toxic substances is to not allow any increases in current loadings. The next step should be reductions in the total mass loadings of toxic substances according to an aggressive, strict timetable; and

WHEREAS, a "Toxics Freeze" has been proposed in the States of Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio by citizens' groups working on revisions to those states' water quality standards and water pollution control regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Toxics Freeze proposal would prohibit any net increase in the total mass loadings entering the Great Lakes of toxic substances on the IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board's "1986 Working List of Chemicals in the Great Lakes Basin." This list

includes 362 toxics that are known to be contaminating the Lakes or the fish, birds, wildlife or humans inhabiting the basin; and

WHEREAS, citizens and government are working to develop Remedial Action Plans for the Great Lakes 42 Toxic Hot-Spots and Lakewide Management Plans for each of the five Lakes, as called for in Annex 2 of the 1987 amendments to the GLWQA. Ontario is developing regulations to control industrial and municipal pollution through the MISA program. These plans and programs are supposed to be important steps toward zero discharge and virtual elimination and are appropriate vehicles to adopt the Toxics Freeze; and

WHEREAS, several Great Lakes States are formulating revisions to water quality standards and pollution control regulations required under the U.S. Clean Water Act. U.S. regulations require that States adopt antidegradation procedures, which restrict increased pollution in waters that are cleaner than required by water quality criteria. These regulations are also appropriate vehicles where a Toxics Freeze could be incorporated; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as a first step in efforts to restore water quality in the Great Lakes, Great Lakes United endorses the adoption of a Toxics Freeze. The Toxics Freeze must prohibit any net increases in the total mass loadings entering the Great Lakes or any of the 362 toxic compounds on the IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board's "1986 Working List of Chemicals in the Great Lakes Basin."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Toxics Freeze is recognized as only the first step and must be coupled with measures that will reduce the total mass loadings of toxic substances according to a strict timetable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GLU calls upon the governments in all Great Lakes jurisdictions -- States, Provinces and Federal Governments -- to adopt a Toxics Freeze either as a new law or as part of ongoing programs which may include Remedial Action Plans, Lakewide Management Plans, Ontario's MISA program, and revisions to water quality standards and pollution control regulations.

Submitted by the National Wildlife Federation, Great Lakes Natural Resource Center.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR GREAT LAKES UNITED

IMPLEMENTING THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT  
THROUGH STATE AND PROVINCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the U.S. and Canada have signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) in 1978 as amended by a 1987 Protocol. This agreement commits the two Parties to restore and maintain water quality in the Great Lakes. The fundamental principle of the GLWQA is that persistent toxic substances must be controlled, reduced and ultimately eliminated; and

WHEREAS, Ontario has endorsed the goals and objectives of the GLWQA and pledged to implement them through the Canada-Ontario Agreement respecting Great Lakes Water Quality and through the Province's Municipal and Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA). The eight Great Lakes Governors have signed the Great Lakes Toxic Substances Control Agreement in 1986 endorsing the goals of the GLWQA. The 1987 amendment to the U.S. Clean Water Act specifically commits the U.S. to the goals of the GLWQA and charges the U.S. EPA with overseeing U.S. efforts to achieve those goals; and

WHEREAS, the two Federal Governments bear the ultimate responsibility for carrying out the GLWQA's goals yet the States and Ontario actually implement many of the most important water quality programs including the establishment of state water quality standards, and the issuance of control orders and discharge permits to municipal, industrial and atmospheric sources of pollution. In the U.S., EPA has the authority under federal law for reviewing and approving states' pollution control programs to ensure their adequacy; and

WHEREAS, the extent to which the GLWQA's goals will be carried out is largely determined by the adequacy of state and provincial programs like MISA, water quality standards and the rules and regulations by which states control all sources of pollution. Several states and Ontario are currently preparing major revisions to their water quality standards and pollution control regulations; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Wisconsin Campaign For Clean Water, several citizens' groups, including Great Lakes United, petitioned the IJC's Water Quality Board to establish a review process to ensure that revisions to important water quality standards and regulations proposed by the states and provinces would advance the goals and objectives of the GLWQA. The IJC declined, responding that this review function was the responsibility of the federal governments; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's Governor Blanchard, in his 1989 State of the State message, pledged to ensure that all pertinent Michigan rules and regulations would be consistent with the GLWQA and the 1986 Great Lakes Governors' Agreement. Governor Blanchard also pledged to call upon the U.S. EPA to require that all state water quality standards be subject to public review and that they be examined for their consistency with the regional agreements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United calls upon the Great Lakes States and Ontario, when developing and enacting laws, administrative rules and regulations and pollution control programs, to include specific provisions necessary to implement the goals and general and specific objectives of the GLWQA. These laws, rules and regulations should focus particular attention on the Agreement's goal of reducing and eventually eliminating the loadings of persistent toxic substances into the Great Lakes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in proposing rules and regulations for public review and comment, the States and Ontario should prepare and circulate an assessment of their potential impact on the Great Lakes. This assessment should include an evaluation of how the proposal will achieve reductions in the total loadings of toxic substances into the Great Lakes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United calls upon the U.S. EPA to begin a process that will result in promulgation of legally enforceable requirements specifying how Great Lakes states' water quality standards and pollution control regulations should reflect the requirements of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. These requirements should address, at a minimum, achieving reductions in the total loadings of toxic substances into the Great Lakes through the use of Great Lakes water quality criteria, Great Lakes anti-degradation policies and procedures and the use of water quality standards to develop pollution controls on all pollutant sources. These requirements should provide for public involvement in the development and review (on the state and federal levels) of state pollution control programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that EPA should include representatives of public interest groups in the development of these requirements. After developing the proposed requirements, EPA should circulate them for general public notice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Environment Canada should develop a procedure and guidelines for evaluating proposed provincial water pollution control programs to ensure consistency with the GLWQA. These guidelines should address, at a minimum, achieving reductions in the total loadings of toxic substances into the Great Lakes through the use of Great Lakes water quality criteria, Great Lakes antidegradation policies and procedures and the use of water quality standards to develop pollution controls on all pollutant sources. These requirements should provide for public involvement in the development and review (on the provincial and federal level of provincial pollution control programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Environment Canada should include representatives of public interest groups in the development of these requirements. After developing the proposed requirements, Environment Canada should circulate them for general public notice.

Submitted by the National Wildlife Federation, Great Lakes National Resource Center.

PROPOSED LEVELS AND FLOWS TASK FORCE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ON REAUTHORIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE  
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 encourages states to develop comprehensive coastal management programs meeting federal standards in exchange for federal funding and a say over federal actions affecting their coasts; and

WHEREAS, the CZMA includes the Great Lakes states as part of the United States coasts; and

WHEREAS, the CZMA must be reauthorized by the U.S. Congress by October 1990 or expire; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are facing tremendous development pressure which increases the need for long-term, far-sighted coastal management; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes resources threatened by unwise development include abundant wildlife and fisheries, important habitat, water quality, and shoreline integrity; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes resources are critical commercially, recreationally and aesthetically to the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes states of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin have federally approved Coastal Zone Management Programs, and the state of Ohio is currently considering joining the federal Coastal Zone Management Program; and

WHEREAS, the CZMA's tools for wise coastal management could be continued and strengthened through Congressional action.

BE IT HERE RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United urges the United States Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the Coastal Zone Management Act prior to its expiration in October 1990.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Great Lakes states not currently participating in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program take immediate steps to join the Program so that the Great Lakes ecosystem can benefit fully from comprehensive, Basin-wide shoreline management.

submitted by Coast Alliance

PROPOSED LEVELS AND FLOWS TASK FORCE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ON EXPANSION OF THE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES  
SYSTEM TO UNDEVELOPED COASTAL AREAS ALONG THE GREAT LAKES

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are a crucial national resource, comprising 95 percent of the United States' fresh surface water, and providing drinking water for the Great Lakes population; and

WHEREAS, Coastal wetlands help reduce shoreline erosion by slowing waterflow and binding sediment, and provide food and shelter for many types of fish and animal life; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes economy depends on nearshore aquatic habitats, which are spawning grounds for commercially important fish; and

WHEREAS, water-based recreation and tourism contribute 8 to 12 billion dollars annually to the Great Lakes' economy; and,

WHEREAS, shoreline development contributes pollution to nearshore waters which threatens drinking water supplies; destroys critical habitat such as wetlands and marshes which threatens important fish and bird species, and impairs access to beaches and shorelands for public recreation; and,

WHEREAS, shoreline development is supported by federal subsidies such as the National Flood Insurance Program, which is the second largest domestic obligation behind the Social Security Program; and,

WHEREAS, new development on undeveloped coastal areas included in the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) cannot qualify for federal subsidies; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior has identified 63,209 acres, comprising 164 miles, of undeveloped coastal areas along the Great Lakes that qualify for inclusion in the protective CBRS.

BE IT HERE RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United urges the United States Congress to act quickly to extend the protective Coastal Barriers Resources System to undeveloped, eligible barriers, such as wetlands, bluffs, dunes and beaches, along the Great Lakes.

submitted by Coast Alliance

PROPOSED WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE RESOLUTION

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RESOLUTION ON  
INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE GREAT LAKES RESEARCH LABORATORIES

WHEREAS, the Reagan and Bush Administrations have attempted to reduce or to eliminate funding of federal Great Lakes research and monitoring activities in nine successive budget proposals (FY's 1982-1988); AND

WHEREAS, the Administrations have repeatedly argued that research and management of Great Lakes resources is a regional matter and a responsibility of Great Lakes states under the "New Federalism" concept; AND

WHEREAS, Congress has maintained approximately level funding for federal Great Lakes research in the face of proposed Administration cuts since 1981; AND

WHEREAS, the purchasing power of federal Great Lakes research programs has been seriously eroded by inflation as a result of this level- funding; AND

WHEREAS, budget erosion has led to an inability to purchase advanced scientific equipment necessary for state-of-the-art research and to grave understaffing; AND

WHEREAS, the United States is obligated to maintain a viable Great Lakes research program under provisions of the United States-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements of 1972 and 1978 and the amendments of 1987; AND

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission - the United States-Canada organization empowered to administer the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement - has termed the budget cuts in research as "short-sighted and potentially dangerous" in its Biennial Reports to the Governments on Great Lakes Water Quality; AND

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes states, through the Great Lakes Commission, have called repeatedly for funding restoration to federal Great Lakes research programs; AND

WHEREAS, while the Great Lakes states have responsibility for intrastate research, they lack the resources and coordination to conduct basinwide ecosystem Great Lakes research activities; AND

WHEREAS, sound and cost-effective care and management of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem can only be accomplished by a strong federal research presence that includes close coordination with Canada; AND

WHEREAS, even though environmental groups, public interest groups, foundations, state and local governments and some corporations have



funded some important Great Lakes research, there is an indispensable federal role in research that cannot be ignored and must not be supplanted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United petition Congress to increase the funding for federal Great Lakes research programs because of their losses due to inflation since 1980; these programs include, but are not limited to:

- (1) NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Ann Arbor, Michigan;
- (2) EPA's Large Lakes Research Station, Grosse Ile, Michigan;
- (3) Great Lakes research programs funded through the United States Commerce Department's Sea Grant Program at universities in the Great Lakes Region;
- (4) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fisheries Center - Great Lakes, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- (5) NOAA's Great Lakes Research Coordinating Office as specified in the 1987 Clean Water Act.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Great Lakes United support the full annual eleven million dollars funding level authorized in Congress to implement the Great Lakes Amendment to the Clean Water Act.

submitted by Hank Vanderploeg,  
American Federation of Government Employees

## Resolution on Contaminated Sediments

WHEREAS, Contaminated Sediments continue to be a major source of pollutants to the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence ecosystem, adversely affecting the water quality, health and reproductive ability of fish and other aquatic organisms, colonial nesting and other birds, shoreline wildlife such as minks and turtles, and humans.

WHEREAS, the continued failure to dredge, dispose of and/or render harmless such sediments also continues to inhibit commercial shipping, recreational boating and marina development, and other economic benefits of Great Lakes bays, harbors, river mouths and nearshore areas;

WHEREAS, no national criteria for assessing the toxicity for contaminated sediments is yet in place either in the U.S. or Canada;

WHEREAS, no national program to manage contaminated sediment is yet in place in either the United States or Canada;

WHEREAS, no specific funding source or sources has yet been identified to pay for cleanup of contaminated sediment in the binational Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, dredging operations in areas which contain contaminated sediments continue to be carried out without due consideration to the adverse impacts caused by the entry of toxics into the ecosystem;

WHEREAS, no study has been conducted to determine the extent to which full-scale, widespread dredging in the Great Lakes can be justified even solely in economic terms;

WHEREAS, studies in both Canada and the United States indicate the potential of reduced water levels due to climate change, which would necessitate increased dredging in shallow bays, harbors and rivers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is limited in its ability to dredge for environmental remediation outside of navigation channels because its Congressionally-mandated mission currently includes no responsibility for environmental remediation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT guidelines for national criteria which take into account long-term, bioaccumulative ecosystem effects as well as human effects be developed by U.S. EPA before December 31, 1989, and that specific numerical criteria shall be established for particular organic chemicals and heavy metals--with an emphasis on Clean Water Act priority pollutants and other chemicals deemed to have a significant impact on water quality and aquatic species--at the rate of 22 chemicals per year for the next five years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the U.S. General Accounting Office be asked to conduct a study to be completed by July 1990 that estimates costs and identifies funding options for a national (U.S.) Contaminated Sediments Fund and that such a study shall consider the

following options: "user fees" or permit processing fees for harbor authorities, direct dischargers who contribute to the problem, commercial water users such as marinas, or the private firms with whom the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contracts dredging operations; fines levied against transportation and shipping industries for spills and discharges; and court revenues received through liability claims and enforcement actions against Clean Water Act violators;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Canada and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec adopt uniform national/provincial criteria and standards for contaminated sediment and that those criteria and standards take into account chronic and bioaccumulative effects to the Great Lakes ecosystem;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT funds for sediment cleanup promised during the Canadian federal election be allocated quickly to begin the job of addressing sediment contamination;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an Office or Division of Contaminated Sediments be established within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada to ensure greater priority for assessment, criteria and standards development and remediation of contaminated sediment in both countries;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be expanded to include responsibility for environmental remediation of contaminated sediments, with review requirements by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife as well as final approval authority by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Harbor Commissions and Crown properties in Canada be subject to the Environmental Assessment and Review Process and that the decision of FEARO have binding enforcement authority;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement designate agencies in the U.S. and Canada to conduct an assessment and develop priorities of locations where dredging for navigation or other purposes is and is not essential;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT monitoring guidelines and regulations be developed within one year of passage of this resolution for dredging of contaminated sediment as potential point sources of pollution by the appropriate state/provincial and/or national authorities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in consultation with the EPA shall designate Best Available Technologies for all remedial actions in areas where concentrations of chemicals exceed sediment standards. Best Available Technologies cannot be finalized without EPA approval and shall be completed within three years of the date of passage of this Resolution.

Submitted by Glenda Daniel, Lake Michigan Federation

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR POWER IN ONTARIO

WHEREAS, Ontarians, in common with all people, have a right to a secure, sustainable supply of clean energy;

WHEREAS, electricity production by conventional means is one of the most polluting and ecologically-damaging industries currently in existence; the production of electricity from heat (thermal generation) requires 3 megawatts of heat to produce just 1 megawatt of electricity;

WHEREAS, Ontario is one of the most electricity-wasteful jurisdictions in the world, and is actually becoming less efficient rather than more;

WHEREAS, the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) called on industrialized states to reduce primary energy consumption by 50 percent;

WHEREAS, official estimates of electricity conservation potential in the Province of Ontario indicate that 25 percent of Ontario's electricity is now wasted, while other experts put this figure at up to 50 percent; Canada as a whole can sustain a population increase of 50 percent and a doubling in size of the economy in the next 35 years and still use less primary energy per capita as was used in 1978;

WHEREAS, an all-Party Select Committee of the Ontario Legislature recommended in 1986 that, in light of the potential of energy efficiency and conservation in Ontario, "no further commitment should be made for additional nuclear power stations at this time.";

WHEREAS, capturing energy by conservation and efficiency is cheaper than any conventional thermal supply option - coal, oil, nuclear, gas;

WHEREAS, the nuclear industry's estimate of the cost of nuclear power is based on assumptions which are not supported by operating experience - the real costs may be 2 to 5 times higher;

WHEREAS, conserving energy by using it more efficiently is the quickest and cheapest means of stopping acid rain, slowing the greenhouse effect, mitigating the problems of radioactive waste disposal, and reducing the environmental impacts associated with the extraction of fossil and nuclear fuel from the earth;

WHEREAS, nuclear power produces highly toxic radioactive waste for which there is no acceptable disposal solution;

WHEREAS, nuclear power plants normally discharge radioactive pollution, which is now understood by the international scientific community to be a public health threat; a growing body of evidence from Canada and around the world indicates that normal operation of reactors is causing death and genetic disease;

WHEREAS, an accident at a Canadian nuclear power installation would be one of the most damaging environmental disasters imaginable;

WHEREAS, while the people of Ontario, the Great Lakes Basin, and all of central and eastern Canada are required to live with the risk of devastating ecological consequences of a reactor accident, the nuclear industry itself refuses to stand behind its product: the Nuclear Liability Act guarantees in law that no vendor or operator of nuclear technology shall be held financially responsible if a major accident occurs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned individuals and organizations, demand that the Government of Ontario immediately institute an electricity efficiency programme aimed at reducing the ratio of electricity used per dollar Gross Provincial Product (GPP) by half; AND, immediately place an indefinite moratorium on the approval, planning or construction of new nuclear power stations in the Province.

Submitted by  
Greenpeace  
Nuclear Awareness Project  
Energy Probe

PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
ON  
FUNDING GREAT LAKES SEA LAMPREY CONTROL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Fisheries Commission maintains chemical control of the lamprey population in the Great Lakes and supports research into alternate control methods, but static appropriations of Commission funds and escalating operational costs have resulted in a critical funding shortfall;

WHEREAS, according to the Commission, the result of this funding problem will mean reduction in research into alternative methods of sea lamprey control and that the sea lamprey control effort will be reduced effective Fiscal Year 1990, resulting in elimination of all control for Lake Erie and 40 percent reductions in control efforts in Lakes Michigan, Huron and Ontario;

WHEREAS, according to the Commission, by the year 2000 this reduction in control effort will result in a doubling of the population of sea lamprey and a 50 percent decline in trout and salmon abundance, and a substantial reduction in other fish stocks;

WHEREAS, according to the Commission, this would result in a reduction of sport fishing expenditures of approximately \$525 million and a loss to the commercial fishery of \$135 million resulting in economic dislocation to the communities dependent on these fisheries;

WHEREAS, the Commission has estimated the total funding needs for the United States and Canada to maintain existing lamprey control and research activities to be \$15.5 million for Fiscal Year 1990;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United, at its seventh annual meeting on May 5, 6 and 7, 1989, in Owen Sound, Ontario, urges the United States Congress and the Canadian Parliament to appropriate full funding of Great Lakes sea lamprey control and research programs.

Submitted by John Witzke  
Saginaw Bay Advisory Council