



GREAT LAKES UNITED

July 20, 1992

The Honourable Bob Rae
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Rae:

Re: Zero Discharge and the Regulation of the
Pulp and Paper Industry

Recently Great Lakes United (GLU) had the opportunity to address four of your Ministers, the Honourable Ruth Grier, Shelly Martel, Ed Philip, and Bud Wildman, about pending discharge regulations for the Ontario Pulp and Paper Industry. I enclose a copy of our submission to them.

We urge you not to compromise the goal of the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) regulations by continuing to allow the pulp and paper industry to discharge tonnes of toxics into Ontario's waters. If you allow one sector regulated by MISA to escape from strict regulation, the whole MISA process will be seen to be inequitable and retrograde.

As a coalition with a strong labour membership, GLU is aware of the difficulty of shifting from pollution control to pollution prevention in a time of recession. However, the transition--if handled well--can be accomplished with minimum job disruption. It is imperative that the pulp and paper industry which is so fundamental to the economic growth of the province, become sustainable in all its processes. It should be regulated to achieve standards that have proven to be viable and profitable in Europe, and which eliminate the use of the chlorine bleaching process.

We believe that this transition cannot be the sole responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment, but should include Industry, Trade and Technology, Northern Development, Natural Resources and Skills Development. Such a transition program should include technical assistance grants for toxic-use-reduction audits and other incentives to change industrial processes utilizing state of



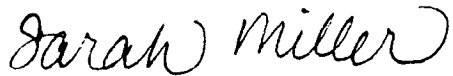
the art equipment, and retraining of workers in new pollution prevention aspects of the industry. Worker compensation and economic protection packages must be part of this plan.

Any backsliding on zero discharge for pulp and paper will put Ontario even further behind other Great Lakes jurisdiction in the regulation of toxics by pollution prevention and will guarantee that industry will fail to be competitive in world markets where demands are fast shifting to paper products produced with non-polluting processes.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Yours truly,

GREAT LAKES UNITED

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Miller".

Sarah Miller
Vice-President

encl.

cc: The Honourable Ruth Grier