



September 13, 2009

## Pipeline is affront to Great Lakes Compact

The Granholm administration ignored its constitutional and moral responsibilities to protect our water resources when Michigan regulators approved Genesee County's unprecedented permit application to tap Lake Huron water.

Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeffrey Wright is trying to serve his constituents by spending more than \$600 million of taxpayer money to construct a pipeline simply because the current water rates charged by the city of Detroit reportedly are too expensive. That is absurd and reckless.

Instead of exercising due diligence, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality ignored expert opinions of scientists, engineers and leaders from environmental organizations and governments on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border.

Genesee County's proposal is the first significant test of the Great Lakes Compact -- the landmark covenant between states and provinces to protect water resources in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin. Failure to consider the opinions of our Canadian neighbors is troubling to say the least.

In approving the proposal, the Granholm administration failed to require Detroit to reduce its water withdrawals if the Genesee pipeline becomes operational. There were also no assurances Genesee County would need all the approved capacity -- which could lead to local politicians closing budget deficits by selling surplus water to municipalities outside the Lake Huron basin.

Our shared water resources are a precious gift from the Creator. They should not be sacrificed in the name of cutting costs and political gamesmanship.

DENNIS LENNOX

Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner

Cheboygan, Sept. 2

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