

1983
RESOLUTIONS



GREAT LAKES UNITED

Adopted
1st Annual Meeting
May 7, 1983
DETROIT, MICH.



RESOLUTION

ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 7, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS Great Lakes United recognizes the relationship between air quality and the quality of the Great Lakes Environment,

WE AGREE THAT there already exists a sufficient base of scientific knowledge about acid precipitation to warrant immediate action, and

WE AGREE THAT because acid precipitation is a global problem, the Governments of both the United States and Canada must act to institute effective policies to reduce acid precipitation.

AMONG THE ACTIONS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN:

1. A strong Clean Air Act must be renewed by the United States. This act should incorporate tough emission standards for oxides of sulfur and nitrogen and should call for a fifty percent reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions by 1990.
2. "Best Available Technology" should be required for new and existing plants, and that the lowest achievable emission rates should be sought in both the United States and Canada.
3. The Canadian government should immediately legislate a reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions from automobiles, and those standards should be at least as strict as those in the United States.
4. The cost of abatement technologies to reduce sulfur dioxides and nitrogen oxide emissions should be borne by the producers.

WE ALSO AGREE THAT comprehensive, publicly-funded research is required to determine the sources, content, extent of contamination and overall environmental impact of toxic fallout in the Great Lakes Basin. Where sources are known, action should be taken in the interim, such as:

5. Promulgation of the list of hazardous contaminants under the United States Clean Air Act;
6. Declaration of a moratorium on approvals to municipal treatment plants to use aeration as a means of removing toxic contaminants from wastewater, and
7. Application of "Best Available Technology" to incineration and chemical destruction of waste.

FURTHER WE RECOMMEND THAT Great Lakes United take all necessary action to promote the signing of a comprehensive Air Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States in which both Governments agree upon lowest acceptable emission rates.

FINALLY we direct the secretary of Great Lakes United to send copies of this resolution to the Ministers of the Environment for Ontario, Quebec and Canada, the International Joint Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the senators and congressmen in the Great Lakes Basin states.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON MAY 7, 1983.

Carol Y. Swinehart
Carol Y. Swinehart - Secretary



RESOLUTION

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 7, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of Great Lakes United shall respond to proposals for energy development based upon the following criteria:

- (1) Has the need for the proposed development project been adequately demonstrated by the proposer?
- (2) Has the generation of jobs and other economic benefits and detriments been adequately determined?
- (3) Are resource recovery mechanisms to be implemented?
- (4) Are hard technologies proposed to be used where soft technologies are feasible? Hard technologies include:
 - (a) non-renewable sources
 - (b) high polluting technologies
 - (c) high risk technologies

Soft technologies include renewable, low polluting, low risk sources.

- (5) Are potential environmental detriments (externalities) included in the cost?

AND FURTHER THAT the Board encourage economically and environmentally sound alternative energy sources that would avoid environmental degradation. Such energy sources include solar, waste to energy (using Best Available Technology for emissions), wind, conservation and hydro-electric power.

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Carol Y. Swinehart
Carol Y. Swinehart - Secretary



RESOLUTION

FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT PROTECTION

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 7, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United press state, provincial and federal governments to stop the loss of fish and wildlife habitat by:

- A. Protecting wetlands in the Great Lakes Basin -- supporting a prohibition on new developments on wetlands, and encouraging the use of volunteers to watchdog government permits;
- B. Preventing or opposing degradation of existing, viable habitats;
- C. Encouraging the development of new urban and rural fish and wildlife habitats.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United develop a clear definition of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas and push for its adoption as a standard term in the Great Lakes Basin;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United support completion of an inventory of wetlands in the Great Lakes Basin, including those of any size in urban areas.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United:

- A. Encourage research and cooperation among various states, provinces, and federal governments in developing and promoting fisheries and wildlife management programs;
- B. Develop a report on how to resolve sport and commercial fishing disputes, in particular:
 - 1. overharvesting
 - 2. allocation decisions
 - 3. permissible methods of harvesting
- C. Demand greater government enforcement efforts against illegal fish harvest.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United seek multi-disciplinary solutions to the loss of fish stocks due to energy production or other industrial or municipal facilities.

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Carol Y. Swinehart
Carol Y. Swinehart - Secretary



RESOLUTION

HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 7, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United should press state, provincial and federal Governments to provide for:

- A. Long term adequate funding of research into the transport, fate and toxicity of substances entering the Great Lakes from point and non-point sources with special attention to the need for long term adequate funding for the EPA Grosse Ile and Duluth Laboratories and NOAA GLERL Laboratory in Ann Arbor.
- B. Increased funding for monitoring, investigation and enforcement to regulate the point and non-point source discharges of toxic pollutants in general, and persistent, bioaccumulative and potentially carcinogenic substances like dioxin in particular.
- C. Increased public access to relevant information.
- D. Honoring Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement commitments.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United should inventory and rank toxic and hazardous substance problems in the Great Lakes Basin.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United press for stricter controls on the point and non-point source discharges of toxic substances into the Great Lakes Ecosystem.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United promote alternatives to the generation and discharge of toxic and hazardous substances, with special focus on the need for the development of a comprehensive resource recovery and waste management plan within the Great Lakes Basin.

RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United create a centralized repository/clearing-house for information relevant to the goals and objectives of Great Lakes United and its member organizations, readily accessible to its members.

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Carol Y. Swinehart
Carol Y. Swinehart - Secretary



RESOLUTION

LAND USE -- LAND QUALITY

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 8, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

IN AS MUCH AS public lands must be maintained in perpetuity from misuse and exploitation,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United is opposed to the wholesale disposal of these lands to achieve short term objectives of questionable value.

IN AS MUCH AS Land and Water Conservation Funds have been appropriated for the acquisition and development of the Great Lakes National Parks and for acquisition and development of urban parks,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United stands strongly in support of the release of these funds to acquire and complete these park systems as intended.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT land use changes which would adversely affect the health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin should be discouraged through economic and regulatory means.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United opposes such land use changes outside the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin which would result in the transport of Great Lakes water beyond the physical limits of the Basin watershed.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United stands opposed to the proposed privatization of United States Forest Service lands and state public lands and urges its membership to contact legislators and the administration to express their opposition to these measures.

IN AS MUCH AS the urban areas of the Great Lakes states and provinces constitute essential components of the Great Lakes Ecosystem, their welfare and their relationship to the balance of the ecosystem is vital to the welfare of the entire ecosystem:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United adopt policies concerned with:

- (1) Suburban sprawl and its impacts on agricultural land, the forest resource base, and other sensitive land resources;
- (2) Central city preservation and rehabilitation, including the upgrading of aging and deteriorating infrastructure;
- (3) The inequitable distribution of U.S. federal resources to the South and West to the economic detriment of the Great Lakes area.

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Carol Y. Swinehart - Secretary



RESOLUTION

LEVELS, FLOWS AND DIVERSIONS

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 7, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

DIVERSIONS:

WHEREAS, there is increasing concern over the possibility of diversion of Great Lakes water out of the Great Lakes Basin and Continent, and

WHEREAS, the diversion of water from the Great Lakes Basin to other basins could result in reduction in the water levels in the Great Lakes, which would result in devastating environmental and economic losses to industries including navigation, and hydro-electric power, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for further clarification of the engineering, economic, environmental and legal aspects of such diversion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Great Lakes United opposes any new diversion of Great Lakes waters out of or into the Great Lakes Basin.

CONSUMPTIVE USES:

WHEREAS, the International Great Lakes Diversions and Consumptive Uses Study Board of the International Joint Commission has projected that consumptive use of Great Lakes water will increase from the 1975 rate of 4,900 cfs (139 M³/S) to an amount which would range from approximately 16,000 cfs (453 M³/S) to 37,000 cfs (1048 M³/S) by the year 2035, and

WHEREAS, the consumptive use of Great Lakes water reduces the net water supply to the lakes, thereby lowering lake levels in the unregulated lakes of Michigan, Huron and Erie anywhere from 0.4 feet (12 cm) to as much as 1.13 feet (34 cm), and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the long term impacts of consumptive uses is essential to the proper management of the Great Lakes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Great Lakes United requests that the Governments of the United States and Canada send a reference to the International Joint Commission requesting them to monitor consumptive use of Great Lakes water and study possible control measures (along with their impacts) for managing consumptive uses of Great Lakes water, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, such a study include no commitment to future diversion of Great Lakes waters out of the Great Lakes Basin.

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Carol Y. Swinehart, Secretary



RESOLUTION

NAVIGATION

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 8, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS Great Lakes United is dedicated to the preservation of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Ecosystem, and

WHEREAS the State, Provincial, and Federal Governments are presently undertaking and promoting navigational projects which have as their purpose enlarging present navigational facilities, specifically Season Extension (Winter Navigation), deepening and widening of channels and harbors beyond present depths, and construction of new and larger locks at the Sault Ste. Marie and St. Lawrence Rivers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT until these government bodies can clearly demonstrate that the above projects are economically beneficial and environmentally sound, that Great Lakes United is opposed to:

- A. Season Extension - Winter Navigation
- B. Additional locks in the Sault Ste. Marie and St. Lawrence Rivers, and
- C. Deepening and widening of channels and harbors beyond present depths.

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Carol Y. Swinehart
Carol Y. Swinehart - Secretary



RESOLUTION

WATER QUALITY

At the Annual Meeting of Great Lakes United on May 7, 1983, the following Resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Basin comprises the world's largest fresh water ecosystem, and sustains the life and livelihood of millions of people and the quality of the living environment throughout the Basin and beyond.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Great Lakes United that the restoration and conservation of the water quality in the basin is of primary importance. To that end, the following actions are required and the following issues must be addressed:

1. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978 between the United States and Canada.
2. The United States Clean Water Act.
3. Sustainable funding levels.
4. The Canadian Water Quality Legislation.
5. Phosphorus control.
6. Other recommendations.

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UNITED STATES CLEAN WATER ACT:

Great Lakes United supports the reauthorization of the United States Clean Water Act:

- a. To maintain uniform water quality standards
- b. To set stringent effluent limitations
- c. To include thermal pollution controls
- d. To enforce strong industrial pre-treatment regulations
- e. To include stringent toxic effluent standards
- f. To control non-point source pollution
- g. To set minimum levels for priority pollutants

We also resolve to add strengthening amendments to the Clean Water Act, where feasible, which will require:

1. That all NPDES permits be consistent with the objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of the United States and Canada.
2. Additional wetlands protection.
3. Strengthened non-point source pollution controls and a comprehensive study under Section 108 of the Clean Water Act with recommendations for monitoring, surveillance and implementation strategies.

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GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT OF 1978 -- UNITED STATES-CANADA:

WHEREAS, the implementation and strengthening of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement are essential for the future well-being and health of the people and the environment in the Great Lakes Basin, and

WHEREAS, the continued usefulness and forcefulness of the Agreement depend on timely and regular review of objectives, and

WHEREAS, a five-year review of the Agreement is due in 1983;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United urges that such a review be instituted by the Governments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT uniform water quality standards should be instituted for Canada and strengthened in the United States, such standards to be consistent with the United States - Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and to take into account additive, interactive, and synergistic effects of pollutants.

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AD-EQUATE FUNDING:

WHEREAS, full implementation and maintenance of regulatory policy requires sufficient funding,

Great Lakes United recommends that adequate funding be maintained and in some cases increased for:

- a. Great Lakes Basin research, monitoring, enforcement and public participation and information programs;
- b. State implementation and enforcement of federal water quality policies.

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CANADIAN CONCERNS:

IT IS AGREED THAT:

- All permits and certificates of approval should be consistent with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States.
- Federal and provincial Safe Drinking Water Acts be passed with legally enforceable standards.

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PHOSPHORUS CONTROL:

WHEREAS, phosphate limitations in laundry detergents are a proven method of reducing phosphorus loadings in the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS, phosphorus concentrations are directly linked to the water quality of the Great Lakes,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Great Lakes United urges the States of Wisconsin and Ohio to establish limits for the allowable concentrations of phosphates in laundry detergents and urges the states and provinces with existing limitations to keep them in effect.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Great Lakes United calls for:

- Responsible wastewater treatment and sludge management;
- Promotion and implementation of effective water conservation measures in the Great Lakes Basin;
- Expansion of water quality planning efforts to anticipate future use demands;
- Further efforts to reduce the impacts of land use activities on Great Lakes water quality.

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Carol Y. Swinehart
Carol Y. Swinehart - Secretary

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