

January 4, 1991

Mr. Richard Johnson
W. Alton Jones Foundation
433 Park Street
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Dear Mr Johnson,

Attached please find an application from Great Lakes United to the Alton Jones Foundation for financial support for our 1991 Technical Assistance Project. This project will have a joint emphasis of building a labor/environment coalition and investigating the issue of pesticide contamination in the Great Lakes Basin.

Great Lakes United is requesting that the Alton Jones Foundation contribute \$31,680 of a total budget of \$60,417 for the period March 1, 1991 to February 28, 1992. Funding from the Alton Jones Foundation will be supplemented by funds from a grant request to the Public Welfare Foundation. In addition, support from existing GLU staff and the general resources of the organization will be used to fulfil the goals of this proposal.

Great Lakes United is a binational coalition of environmental, anglers, minority, union, governmental and small business interests from the eight Great Lakes states and two provinces, dedicated to the conservation and protection of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem. The organization is overseen by a 22 member board of directors.

The support of the Alton Jones Foundation is crucial to the continued efforts of Great Lakes United. Funding requested in this proposal would enable GLU to continue to provide citizen activists with technical support and to initiate research in the area of Basin pesticide use.

Feel free to contact me at (716) 886-0142 if you require additional information.

Sincerely

Philip Weller
Executive Director

**PROPOSAL TO THE ALTON JONES FOUNDATION
FROM GREAT LAKES UNITED
TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GREAT LAKES CITIZENS
AND TO INITIATE A GREAT LAKES PESTICIDE REVIEW**

History and Goals of Great Lakes United

Great Lakes United (GLU) is a binational coalition dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem. Great Lakes United was formed in 1982 at a meeting on Mackinac Island. At that meeting, community leaders representing diverse interest groups from throughout the region agreed to work cooperatively to save the Great Lakes.

Since that time, Great Lakes United has effectively coordinated and supported the efforts of over 180 organizations and thousands of individuals from both the U.S. and Canada. Environmentalists, minority groups, clergy, conservationists, anglers, labor unions, municipalities and individuals have joined forces through Great Lakes United and lead the Basin-wide movement for Great Lakes protection and proper management.

The goals of the coalition are:

1. To strengthen citizen involvement in environmental policy development and to represent citizen concerns at local, national and international forums.
2. To coordinate and support Basin-wide, grassroots initiatives around such issues as zero-discharge, Remedial Action Plans and habitat protection.
3. To provide educational information and technical support for people fighting for the cleanup of their communities.

Accomplishments of 1990

Through foundation grants, membership contributions and direct donations, Great Lakes United has strengthened its financial base and expanded its programs. In 1990, Great Lakes United and our member groups made great strides towards achieving our common goals. The following is a brief summary of a few of these successes.

• In February, 1990, GLU sponsored the largest gathering of citizens involved in community clean-up efforts ever held. The "RAP Revival" provided travel scholarships and brought citizen activists together to strategize on common problems and share common concerns. As a result of this workshop, GLU and workshop

participants set up the first citizens' RAP network and GLU published "RAP Revival, A Citizens' Agenda for RAPS."

- In March 1990, Great Lakes United, Sierra Club and other member groups converged in Washington D.C. for the 7th Annual "Great Lakes Washington Week." Participants from U.S. and Canadian interest groups represented citizen concerns and briefed U.S. government officials on critical Great Lakes issues.

- In April 1990 the IJC released its Fifth Biennial Report--the toughest indictment of Great Lakes problems they have ever written. Calls for greater governmental action and for zero discharge, which citizens demanded at the IJC meeting last fall, were included. Clearly, citizen testimony, organized by Great Lakes United and its member groups, had a major impact on the Commission and its policies.

- Furthering GLU's ongoing commitment to provide communities with accurate information on Great Lakes issues, GLU published and distributed 5 new citizen guides in 1990.

- Citizens Guide to Rochester Embayment Remedial Action Plan
- Citizens Guide to Biomonitoring in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River
- Citizens Guide to Combined Sewer Overflows in Detroit
- Citizens Guide to White Lake Remedial Action Plan
- Human Health Effects from Toxic Chemicals in the Great Lakes

- In addition to producing the above reports, Great Lakes United answered hundreds of citizen information requests this year and continued to publish our quarterly newsletter-- giving our members and other grassroots activists current news on the state of the Lakes.

Problem Statement

Chemical contamination poses a significant threat to the environment and people of the Great Lakes basin. The International Joint Commission emphasized this threat in their Fifth Biennial Report, released in April 1990. They wrote: "We have concluded from wildlife and laboratory animal information that persistent toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem pose serious health risks to living organisms." The source of these risks-- toxic chemical pollution -- must be challenged.

Over the last 7 years, Great Lakes United has successfully strengthened citizen involvement in Great Lakes clean-up projects. Citizen involvement in recent years has focused mainly on participating in the development and implementation of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) mandated by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. GLU has worked with citizen RAP participants in communities throughout the Basin including Buffalo, NY, Erie,

PA, Ashtabula, OH, Rochester, NY, White Lake, MI, Thunder Bay, ONT, Grand Calumet, IN, Menominee, WI and other Areas of Concern.

Participating in the RAP evaluation process necessitates an understanding of certain technical issues. To aid citizens in this area, GLU has provided them with training workshops, informational guides and direct technical assistance. While GLU has already given substantial technical aid to individuals and groups working on RAPs, the RAPs are still in progress. Great Lakes United continues to receive many requests to review, comment and provide information to citizens on technical issues, such as critiquing site remediation proposals and examining discharge reduction technology.

In addition to receiving requests for technical assistance from citizens involved in pollution cleanup, GLU also receives requests for technical support and information from citizens working on in the area of pollution prevention and the reduction of non-point pollutants like pesticides. Responding to this need, Great Lakes United, with a grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, has initiated a major pollution prevention/zero discharge campaign. This campaign will provide citizens with training workshops, informational guides and followup support for community pollution prevention projects.

It has become apparent, however, that some important links in the pollution prevention/zero discharge campaign are missing. One of these is research in the area of Great Lakes chemical pollution from sources other than direct industrial outflow. One major source of this "non-point" toxic chemical pollution is pesticides. Consider the following statistic on pesticide use in the Great Lakes region taken from a report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada:

"Mid-1980s estimates of pesticide usage of 21 commonly used varieties indicated that more than **16,900 tons** were used on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes Basin **each year** and at least another **9,200 tons** were used in Ontario **each year**."

Since only 4 to 20% of an applied pesticide is absorbed by plants and less than .01% of applied pesticides actually reach pests-- that leaves at least 70-80% of these toxic chemicals to be absorbed into the air, soil and water of the Basin region.

Persistent toxic herbicides such as DDT are no longer in use but the potential health effects to wildlife and people from new "non-persistent" herbicides are unknown. Due to the volume of toxic pesticides used in the Great Lakes Basin and the marginal understanding of their properties, careful study of the types used and their environmental effects is needed.

Program of Work

Great Lakes United fulfils a unique role in being a resource to hundreds of groups throughout the Great Lakes Basin on issues relating to toxic contaminants. The project funded by this grant in conjunction with a grant from the Public Welfare Foundation will enable Great Lakes United to hire a technical analyst. This analyst will provide technical assistance to citizens activists and will study the scope and effects of pesticide use in the Basin region.

In addition to providing ongoing technical support to citizens working on Remedial Action Plans and coordinating the efforts of our Labor/Environment task force, the technical analyst will work on two main objectives. Firstly, in cooperation with GLU field coordinators, the technical analyst will develop a scientific advisory board that can provide assistance to GLU in fulfilling our technical commitments. Numerous scientists have indicated a willingness to assist GLU in this manner. Such an advisory board would give Great Lakes United and Great Lakes activists access to a wide scope of technical expertise.

Secondly, the technical analyst will prepare a Great Lakes pesticide review. This background research project will identify:

- a) What pesticides are used in the Great Lakes Basin.
- b) The volumes of pesticides used in the Basin.
- c) The problems associated with exposure to those pesticides.
- d) Preliminary research on alternatives to pesticides.

The technical analyst will prepare a report on the project's findings for the GLU Board of Directors so that they may consider expanded efforts to address pesticide concerns. In consultation with GLU field coordinators, the technical analyst will also identify and begin preliminary discussions with constituencies affected by pesticides. In particular, outreach to the Great Lakes farm community will be made. This outreach effort will complement an expanded outreach to labour groups. Farmers, farmer workers, city workers etc. will be contacted about the health concerns from handling pesticides. The outreach effort will be done in conjunction with the overall Labor/Environment initiative undertaken by GLU.

Budget Requested from the Alton Jones Foundation

Salary

Technical Analyst (50%)*	\$12,500	
Support Staff 1/4 time	\$ 4,000	
Benefits 20%	\$ 3,300	
Total Salary & Benefits		\$19,800

Travel

Technical Analyst Travel		\$ 4,500
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Office

Telephone	\$ 2,000	
Copy & Printing	\$ 2,500	
Total Office		\$ 4,500
Administrative Costs (10% of sub-total)		\$ 2,880

Total Costs		\$ 31,680
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*Balance of funds needed to fulfil overall project objectives will be raised through a grant from the Public Welfare Foundation.