



**GREAT LAKES UNITED**

January 4, 1991

Mr. Larry Kressley  
Public Welfare Foundation  
2600 Virginia Ave., Ste. 505  
Washington, D.C. 20037-1977

Dear Mr. Kressley,

Enclosed please find an application for financial assistance submitted by Great Lakes United to the Public Welfare Foundation for our technical assistance and labor/environment coalition building project. This project will support the continuation of our successful technical assistance program and the expansion of our effort to build partnerships between community members and labor activists who are both exposed to toxic contaminants in the Great Lakes basin.

Great Lakes United is requesting the Public Welfare Foundation to contribute \$29,337 of a total project budget of \$60,417 for the period of March 1, 1990 to February 28, 1990. Funding from the Public Welfare Foundation will be supplemented by funds from a grant request to the Alton Jones 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, angler, 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 elected by the member groups.

The support of Public Welfare Foundation is important for the continued ability of Great Lakes United to work together with individuals and groups throughout the basin to challenge actions which threaten the health of humans and the environment.

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

Sincerely

Philip E. Weller  
Executive Director

*An international organization dedicated to conserving and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River*  
State University College at Buffalo, Cassety Hall • 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222  
(716) 886-0142

Canadian Address: P.O. Box 548 Station A • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6

COVER SHEET

Description of Organization

Name, Address and Phone Number:

Great Lakes United  
State University College at Buffalo  
Cassety Hall  
1300 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14222  
(716) 886-0142

Purpose of Organization: To support and coordinate the Basin-wide, grassroots movement to protect and restore the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem.

Total Budget: Total 1990 Organizational Budget - \$292,142.00

Fiscal Year: Calendar Year

Tax Exempt Status: 501 (c) (3)

Contact Person: Philip E. Weller, Executive Director

Description of Project

Purpose of Request: To support the continuation of our Technical Assistance Program to Great Lakes activists and to support the expansion of our effort to build a Labor-Environment Movement.

Total Project Budget: \$60,417

Amount Requested from the Public Welfare Foundation: \$29,337

Other Sources of Income for the Project: Grant Requested from the Alton Jones Foundation for \$31,080

Period of Time for which the Grant is Requested: March 1, 1991 to February 28, 1992.

GREAT LAKES UNITED:  
REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES TO GREAT  
LAKES CITIZENS AND TO BUILD A LABOR/ENVIRONMENT COALITION

Submitted To: Public Welfare Foundation  
Submitted By: Great Lakes United

January 4, 1990

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## HISTORY AND GOALS OF GREAT LAKES UNITED

Great Lakes United (GLU) is a binational coalition of groups and individuals 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 and activists representing diverse interest groups from throughout the Great Lakes 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 towards 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 zerodischarge, Remedial Action Plans and habitat protection.
3. To provide educational information and technical support for people fighting for the cleanup of their communities.

## 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 1990. They stated: "We have concluded from wildlife and laboratory animal information that persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem pose serious health risks to living organisms." The source of those 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 and has helped local interest groups fight toxic chemical pollution. Citizen involvement to this point has focused mainly on participating in the development and implementation of Remedial Action Plans (RAPS) mandated by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. GLU worked with citizens in communities throughout the Basin region including Buffalo, NY, Erie, PA, Ashtabula, OH, White Lake, MI, Thunder Bay, ONT, Grand Calumet, IN, Menominee, WI and other Areas of Concern.

To effectively participate in the RAP evaluation and implementation process, citizen activists need to understand certain technical issues. In response to this need, GLU has provided residents with training workshops, informational guides and direct technical aid. While GLU has already given substantial technical assistance 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. This is particularly so in relation to the adoption of no-waste or low-waste technology by polluting industries.

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 follow-up support for community pollution prevention projects.

It has become apparent, however, that some important links in the pollution prevention/zero discharge campaign are missing. Key questions must be addressed, such as, What will be the impact on jobs of low-waste technology? Are substitutes and alternative production processes available to reduce worker and community exposure to chemical contaminants?

At its annual meeting in Green Bay in May 1990, Great Lakes United formed a Labor and Environmental Task Force to address the joint concerns of Labor and Environmental groups. (See attached resolution). It is the goal of the Task Force to unite the efforts of labor activists and environmentalists to fight local pollution problems.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The technical assistance and grassroots labor/environment coalition-building project will address two significant needs identified within the Great Lakes community. Firstly, citizens need ongoing technical assistance to ensure that the best possible clean-up plans are developed and implemented in their communities. Secondly, all affected constituencies of each community must work together to fight for pollution prevention.

Great Lakes United has identified three main goals to address these needs. They are: 1) to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to citizens involved in Remedial

Action Plans; 2) to increase GLU's access to technical expertise and information; and 3) to provide technical assistance and organizing support to labor (including farmers) and environmental groups so they may join forces to achieve a reduction of toxic chemical pollution in their communities.

### PLAN OF ACTION

Great Lakes United fulfills 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 Alton Jones Foundation will allow Great Lakes United to hire a technical analyst.

In addition to providing ongoing technical support to citizens working in Remedial Action Plan development and implementation and conducting research in the area of Great Lakes pesticide use, the technical analyst will work on two distinct but connected activities.

Firstly, in conjunction with GLU field coordinators, the technical analyst will develop a scientific advisory committee that can be called upon to aid GLU in fulfilling its technical commitments. Numerous scientists have indicated a willingness to assist GLU in this manner. Such an advisory board will be able to provide Great Lakes United and Great Lakes activists with access to a wide scope of technical expertise.

The second initiative is to coordinate the efforts of the Great Lakes United Labor and Environmental Task Force. This year, the efforts of the Task Force will be done in conjunction our 1991 Pollution Prevention-Zero Discharge Campaign.

Under a grant funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, Great Lakes United will hold 6 community workshops (including Windsor/Detroit, Gary, Buffalo, and Sault Ste Marie) to promote pollution prevention at the community and industrial levels.

Prior to conducting the pollution prevention workshops, members of the GLU Labor and Environmental task force will contact labor groups and community organizations to identify local needs and build workshop support. The technical analyst will then work with GLU field coordinators and the pollution prevention researcher to develop a Toxic Use Reduction Strategy for targeted industries in that community. Campaigns to reduce toxic discharges and worker exposure in those industries will be undertaken jointly by local labor groups and community groups with the help of the task force.

While the funding is currently available to conduct these workshops, there are not sufficient funds available to provide ongoing technical support and coalition support in those communities following the workshops. The funds sought in this

grant proposal would enable GLU to provide sustained outreach and support to labor activists, minorities, and other constituencies exposed to toxic contaminants. Sustained outreach and assistance is critical to the success of the project because it will increase the chances for uniting and empowering affected communities.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 1990

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

- 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 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.

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

- 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, participants formed a citizens RAP network and GLU published "RAP Revival, A citizens' Agenda for RAPS."

- 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 Lakes 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.

### METHOD OF EVALUATION

The Executive Director, Board of Directors and the Labor Environmental Task Force of Great Lakes United will evaluate the progress of the program during scheduled meetings. In addition, the Executive Director will coordinate the submission of two reports to the sponsoring foundations. The final report will include an assessment of the progress made in building the Labor-Environment Coalition and specific successes in targeted locations.

### CONTINUATION OF PROJECT

#### Long Term Goals

GLU is the only Great Lakes organization providing citizens with ongoing technical and organizational assistance with Remedial Action Plans. It is the firm belief of the Board of Directors of Great Lakes United that we must have a technical analyst on staff to fulfil this task. It is recognized, however, that the full range of expertise needed is not available within one individual. For this reason the proposed project calls for the development of a scientific advisory committee that can be drawn upon when specific skills are needed. By developing this committee, GLU can substantially expand the technical resources available to the organization without added costs.

The goal of the GLU Labor and Environmental Task Force for the coming years is to build a Basin-wide Labor movement toward the institution of safer working conditions and toxic chemical use reduction in Great Lakes production facilities. This year's project will mark the first step of the Labor and Environment Task Force towards achieving its goal and will set the groundwork for future successes.

#### Future Financing

Great Lakes United has become a strong and respected voice on Great Lakes issues. The Board of Directors is working to ensure that the organization increases its financial security to meet the demands upon the organization. While the technical analyst is seen as a core position within GLU we are not yet at the point when our fundraising efforts can sustain the position without grant support. The Board of Directors is committed to expanding available funding to support this position out of general revenues in the future. To that end, in 1990 GLU



undertook a staff reorganization and hired a full-time funding coordinator. The funding/development coordinator is seeking to expand the general funding for the organization to make the necessary resources available for key staff positions and projects, including the technical analyst and Labor and Environmental Task Force.

BUDGET REQUESTED  
FROM THE PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION

Salaries

Technical Analyst (50%)*	\$ 12,500
Administrative Assistant (1/4)	\$ 4,000
Benefits (20% Base)	\$ 3,300
Salaries Subtotal	\$ 19,800

Administrative Costs

Technical Analyst Travel	\$ 2,870
Labor/Environment Task Force Travel	\$ 2,000
Postage	\$ 500
Telephone	\$ 1,500
Administrative Cost Subtotal	\$ 6,870
Office Overhead Allocation (10% of Grant Total)	\$ 2,667
Total Expenditures (1990-91)	<u>\$ 29,337</u>

\* Balance of funds needed to fulfil overall project objectives will be raised through a grant from Alton Jones Foundation.