



GREAT LAKES UNITED

November 19, 1991

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar
United Nations
1 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Secretary General Perez de Cuellar,

We are writing to request that the United Nations investigate the breaches of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by the federal governments of the United States and Canada.

We are appealing to the United Nations because we feel, first, that the Great Lakes are a unique body of fresh water of global importance that warrant international attention, and secondly, that the bi-national environmental protection agreement between the United States and Canada -- the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement -- should be a model for international environmental protection.


Attached please find a copy of a recent report entitled, "Broken Agreement: The Failure of the United States and Canada to Implement the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement". This report outlines the specific instances where the national governments of Canada and the United States have failed to comply with the terms of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This Agreement was concluded in good faith by the respective governments in 1978, with a Protocol being added in 1987. This Agreement is a vital component of the international law regime governing the Great Lakes.

In our view, a thorough and comprehensive investigation by the United Nations would verify our claims and demonstrate the need for immediate preventive and remedial action. We have also contacted the United Nations Environment Project and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to bring this critical issue to their attention. Those letters are attached.

This request is being respectfully submitted by environmental, labor, and public health organizations from throughout the Great Lakes Basin. The list of these organizations is attached.

We look forward to hearing your response in the near future.

Yours very truly,


John Jackson
President

ORGANIZATIONS CO-SIGNING
GREAT LAKES UNITED LETTER
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American Clean Water Project
Atlantic States Legal Foundation
Benedictine Sisters
Buffalo Audubon Society
Canadian Auto Workers - Local 1973
Canadian Environmental Law Association
Citizen's Alliance
Citizen's Network on Waste Management
Citizens Environment Alliance
Citizens Environmental Coalition
Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination
Citizens for a Better Environment
Coast Alliance
Ecology Center of Ann Arbor
Ecumenical Task Force
Environment North
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Planning Lobby
Erie County Environmental Coalition
Friends of Allegany
Grand Cal Task Force
Greenpeace, Great Lakes Project
Lake St. Clair Advisory Committee
Michigan Audubon Society
Michigan Environmental Council
National Audubon Society - Great Lakes Regional Office
Natural Resources Defense Council
Niagara Citizens for Modern Waste Management
Niagara Residents for Safe Toxic Waste Disposal
North Country Environmental Awareness Organization
Oakland County Sportfishing Association
Ohio Environmental Council
Ontario Public Health Association
Ontario Toxic Waste Research Coalition
Pollution Probe
Residents Organized for Lewiston/Porter's Environment
Sanitary Chemists and Technicians Association
Save the Dunes Council
Sierra Club Binational Great Lakes Committee
Sierra Club, Great Lakes Program
Societe pour Vaincre la Pollution
St. Clair River International Citizens Network
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Turnaround Decade
UAW Local - 1102, Conservation Committee
UAW Local - 1102
Union Quebecoise pour la Conservation de la Nature
Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
Wallaceburg Clean Water Committee
Windsor & District Labour Council, Environment Committee