

September 24, 1991

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

Dear Secretary General,

Attached please find a copy of a recent report entitled, Broken Promises: 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. In our view, this Agreement is a vital component of the international law regime governing the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, a seminal agreement for the protection of international aquatic ecosystems, is intended to protect the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes. Unfortunately, the Great Lakes are still under great stress. For your information, attached also please find a copy of the 1991 Report to the International Joint Commission by the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board. This report outlines the problems facing the Great Lakes.

In light of the failure of the governments to comply with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, we hereby formally request that the United Nations investigate the breaches of the Agreement. The critical state of the Great Lakes leaves us no choice but to request your intervention in this matter. 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 look forward to hearing your response in the near future.

Yours very truly,



John Jackson
Great Lakes United



Paul Muldoon
Pollution Probe



Sarah Miller
Canadian Environmental
Law Association