

**GREAT LAKES UNITED**

May 14, 1993

Ms. Sally Cole-Misch  
Director of Public Affairs  
IJC Regional Office  
Windsor, Ontario

Dear Sally,

Thank you for your letter dated April 27th, summarizing the Commission's perspective on the suggestions made by the environment/labor community for the biennial program. As you are probably aware, Great Lakes United held their annual general meeting in Kingston May 7-9, and has formed a task force to facilitate the involvement of the Great Lakes community in the biennial meeting.

In your letter, you commented that the Saturday workshops were developed to highlight the Commission's work in priority areas beyond what could be presented by the established boards and task forces. The workshops listed in the proposed program dated April 22nd, however, fail to have any direct relationship to the significant issues and recommendations made by the IJC. Great Lakes United recognizes a critical need for greater knowledge and discussion on prominent issues, such as the virtual elimination strategy for persistent toxic substances, the recommendation for a ban on chlorine in the Great Lakes and incorporating the ecosystem approach in Lakewide Management Plans and RAPS. The GLU task force strongly supports the need for an open dialogue on these issues in a meaningful workshop forum.

The GLU IJC biennial task force also recognizes the need for members of the public and Public Advisory Councils to attend the Remedial Action Plan Forums scheduled for the biennial meeting. The RAP discussions, however, are convened on days that make it extremely difficult for the public to attend. The GLU task force calls for a greater sensitivity to the working public who are unable to take time away from their jobs to attend this informative RAP forum.

As a result of the discussions of the GLU IJC biennial task force, a formal resolution was adopted by the GLU membership on May 9, 1993:

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes are still under great stress from persistent toxic substances, **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, the federal governments have committed to the

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goal of virtual elimination of persistent toxics under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, AND,

WHEREAS, regulatory strategies shall be adopted under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to virtually eliminate the input of persistent toxic substances in order to protect the Great Lakes ecosystem.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes United repeats the request that the IJC hold a Saturday workshop on virtual elimination strategy at the biennial meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the IJC adjust the program schedule for the RAP forum to Saturday or Sunday to accommodate the RAP/PAC members that cannot attend a weekday meeting.

Again, it is our sincere desire that this biennial meeting provide the participants with an opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the Great Lakes ecosystem and the current issues that face the integrity of this dynamic bioregion. In your review of the biennial program agenda we urge you to reconsider these suggestions.

Sincerely,



Mary Ginnebaugh  
Great Lakes United  
Windsor

cc: Canadian Commissioners, Ottawa  
U.S. Commissioners, Washington  
Biennial Planning Committee