



Canadian Environmental Law Association  
L'Association canadienne du droit de l'environnement

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Dear Member of the Water Resources Management Committee,

**Re: Ontario Water Withdrawal Proposals**

Attached is a letter which Great Lakes United, with other groups has sent to three Ontario Cabinet Ministers outlining our collective concerns regarding three tenders for proposals for additional water supplies for the Region of York, north of Toronto. We urge you to discuss this proposal within your responsibilities set out by The Great Lakes Charter. We have also enclosed some newspaper accounts describing what is known of these proposals which are not now available to the public.

Several of these tenders propose to bring new water supplies from Georgian Bay to York Region. Your committee has heard in the past of these proposals in the conceptual stage from Ontario representatives when they were first proposed by TransCanada Pipelines several years ago. What you should know is that one of the three recent tenders is a joint venture between the Ontario government's Ontario Clean Water Agency with TransCanada Pipelines. While this proposal is not an out-of-basin diversion, we strongly feel its impacts will rival those of withdrawals scrutinized by your Committee and will establish a poor precedent for the sustainable management of the Great Lakes in the future.

Our letter raises issues of the ecological impacts on downstream parts of the ecosystem bypassed by this withdrawal, on the point of withdrawal in Georgian Bay, and on watersheds which might be receiving the water and wastewaters from the proposed pipelines. We also raise concerns about the effective privatization with partners far removed from the Great Lakes in two of the joint ventures tendered which have British companies as partners. We are also concerned about the government joint venture with TransCanada and its implications for environmental assessment of the venture.

Because we are convinced that the need for these proposals have not been demonstrated, we are asking that they be subject to a full environmental assessment. We hope we have your support in our request.

Yours truly,

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