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Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

Voice: 312-407-0177
Fax: 312-407-0038
Web: www.cglg.org
e-mail: cglg@cglg.org

January 25, 2005

Canadian Environmental Law Association
Clean Wisconsin
Environmental Advocates of New York
Great Lakes United
Lake Michigan Federation
Michigan Environmental Council
Michigan Land Use Institute
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Office
Ohio Environmental Council
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Union Québécoise de la conservation de la nature

Dear Environmental Group Representatives:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 7, 2005 concerning the Great Lakes Water Management Initiative. The Water Management Working Group appreciates your support and thoughtful input.

Public participation has always been—and continues to be—critical to our shared efforts to protect the Great Lakes. We look forward to continued public input towards an agreement that assures the sustainability of the Great Lakes.

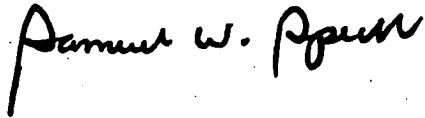
The Working Group met January 11-13 to continue consideration of public comments and to discuss options for moving forward. At that meeting, the Working Group discussed the suggestions outlined in your letter. Per your request, we have posted the Public Comment Summary and November 15-17 Working Group meeting summary to the Council's Web site. This was announced through the Great Lakes Information Network's e-mail list server. The Council plans to post the January 11-13, 2005 meeting summary in the next few weeks. The Working Group will discuss with Tribal and First Nations representatives the possibility of a meeting summary for the January 31-February 1 meeting.

As you know, over 10,000 public comments were submitted to the Council, in addition to the comments made by the approximately 1,000 people in attendance at the public meetings. The Working Group continues to consider these comments in revising the draft agreements. Because of the overwhelming public interest in these agreements, it is anticipated that the public will have another opportunity to review and comment on the draft agreements once revisions have been made. After considering and incorporating as appropriate this second round of public comments, the Working Group's goal is to be able to present final agreements to the

Governors and Premiers for their consideration in summer 2005. As our decision making calendar is firmed, we expect to share it with you and the public at large.

The Working Group appreciates your continued interest and support. Please do not hesitate to contact David Naftzger, Council Executive Director, at 312-407-0177 if there are questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Samuel W. Speck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' at the beginning.

Samuel W. Speck
Chair, Water Management Working Group, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources