

The Honourable Jean Charest  
Premier of Québec  
Édifrice Honoré-Mercier,  
3<sup>e</sup> étage  
835, boul. René-Lévesque Est  
Québec G1A 1B4

The Honourable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Premier Charest and Governor Cuomo,

Re: Completing the Implementation of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River  
Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (the Agreement)

We are writing to express our concerns that the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement be fully implemented in 2012. The Province of Ontario has not made progress toward this end since 2007. With the passage of Ohio's legislation on May 22, 2012, Ontario is now the only jurisdiction to fail to implement this precedent setting Agreement. We have appended a chart created by the Council of Great Lakes Governors on the status of implementation in all 10 Great Lakes Jurisdictions.

Soon Ontario's lack of action will begin to affect the ability of other jurisdictions to apply the full components of the Agreement. Several clauses of the Agreement will not come into force until all the 10 Parties have completed basic implementation. We are asking that Quebec and New York, as other downstream members of the Regional Body, ask Ontario to proceed with their implementation in 2012.

The goals of this Agreement, to prohibit large water diversions and bulk water export proposals from the system, are likely to be tested in 2013 when Waukesha Wisconsin's proposal for an out of basin transfer is considered. Since this will be the first real test of the Agreement, it would be regrettable if the Agreement is not fully in force when this proposal is considered by the Regional Body. Procedural complications could arise because Ontario may need to operate under the different set of rules in the 1985 Great Lakes Charter rather than the Agreement protocols.

The other challenges of growing water use and demand within the Basin and the uncertainties of climate change could be prevented in part by the Great Lakes conservation strategies required by the Agreement of each of the States and Provinces. Although Ontario has other water conservation initiatives, the Province has not yet produced the Great Lakes specific conservation strategy

Marc Hudon

Senior Advisor

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NYS Groups