



Canadian Environmental Law Association

Great Lakes United



Union St-Laurent Grand Lacs

July 14, 2011

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty,

Re: Urgent Ontario action needed on Ohio legislation on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement

As two members of Ontario's Agreement Advisory Panel, we are writing to urge you to take immediate action to ensure that flawed legislation in Ohio does not undermine the success and integrity of the hard won Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (Agreement) and the US Great Lakes Water Resources Compact (Compact).

The Ohio General Assembly has passed legislation (Sub H.B. 231) that is inconsistent with the Regional Agreement and the Compact. We have attached a factsheet put together by several Ohio organizations explaining the problems with the legislation. We here extract the description from that factsheet of how the legislation is contrary to the Regional Agreement and Compact (Attachment 1):

The bill attempts to re-write the Compact by:

Limiting Ohio Department of Natural Resources to judge only impacts (from water withdrawals and consumptive uses) to the whole Lake Erie basin, rather than to both the Lake Erie basin **and** the streams and rivers and groundwater that feeds Lake Erie—in direct violation of the Compact;

Measuring only physical individual impacts from water withdrawals and consumptive uses, rather than physical, chemical and biological impacts—in direct violation of the Compact;

Not considering cumulative impacts to Lake Erie, its tributaries, and ground water—in direct violation of the Compact;

Not requiring the use of a scientific process to measure impacts from water withdrawals

The Honourable John Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON
M7A 2T5
minister.moe@ontario.ca