



July 11, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

JIM DOYLE
CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

The Honorable John Boehner
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 US Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
Governor of Illinois

MITCH DANIELS
Governor of Indiana

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

DAVID A. PATERSON
Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

TED STRICKLAND
Governor of Ohio

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

Dear Friends:

As you know, in 2000 the U.S. Congress passed amendments to the Water Resources Development Act to "...encourage the Great Lakes States, in consultation with the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, to develop and implement a mechanism that provides a common conservation standard embodying the principles of water conservation and resource improvement for making decisions concerning the withdrawal and use of water from the Great Lakes Basin."

As a result of this Congressional action as well as past commitments made by the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, the Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec have worked aggressively to update and improve the region's water management regime. Following a nearly five-year development process that involved thousands of people, the Governors endorsed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Compact (Compact) on December 13, 2005. For the Compact to come into effect, it must be ratified by each of the Great Lakes States and consented to by the U.S. Congress.

On July 9, 2008, the Great Lakes States completed their ratification of the Compact. We are now eager to work together to obtain Congressional consent and turn the Compact's protections into law.

We thank you for your commitment to ensure that the Great Lakes are sustainably managed for the benefit of generations to come. If we can be of assistance as our shared efforts move forward, please do not hesitate to contact us or David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors.

Sincerely,

Jim Doyle
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor, State of Wisconsin

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