

Dear Senator Kedzie:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Special Committee on the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact and the opportunity to present to you some of my concerns regarding the Compact. I don't profess to be an expert on hydrology, the Great Lakes ecosystem, past water use agreements, or the legal intricacies of multi-state/international compacts. I am however a resident of Wisconsin who resides in the Lake Superior Basin and who sees our access to the waters of Lake Superior as an asset for economic development. I sit on the Special Committee as a citizen, as a local economic development director and as the President-Elect of the Wisconsin Economic Development Association.

My overarching concern is that the Compact, as written, presents a high degree of regulatory uncertainty that could hinder the economic competitiveness of Wisconsin in general and Northwestern Wisconsin in particular.

Members of our local business community compete with businesses from throughout the nation and throughout the world. One major local employer in particular competes not only with companies in the Great Lakes Basin but also with companies located in regions not covered by the Compact. The Compact, as I understand it, would impose more severe regulations on this company requiring it to jump through more hoops and incur more costs than its non-basin competitors. In addition, any potential expansion plans of this company would be subject to the review of states and provinces in which some of the company's competitors are located. I am concerned that these other states and provinces will likely raise a "red flag" on the company's potential expansion plans if they feel the potential expansion poses a threat to companies located within their boundaries. In other words, the Compact could be used as a tool to restrict competition and hinder economic development.

In order to educate myself on the Compact and its potential impact on the Wisconsin economy, I have conferred with a number of individuals who have a much better grasp of the Compact than I. These individuals represent organizations and companies that are concerned about the consequences, both intended and unintended, of the Compact and the yet to be introduced enabling legislation. Some of these individuals have provided memos to me detailing their concerns. I ask that the comments provided by these stakeholders be considered by the Special Committee. Thus I have attached a paper from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. This document does an excellent job in "fleshing out" many of my concerns.

Once again Senator Kedzie, I appreciate this opportunity to offer my concerns about the Compact and I look forward to seeing you on December 15.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lisak
Executive Director
The Development Association
Superior, Wisconsin