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FORM EMAIL #1 – 150 RECEIVED

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Dear Mr. Eric Ebersberger:

With the City of Waukesha's revised application to divert water from Lake Michigan now in hand, the hard work of evaluating the merits of the City's request begins. I am concerned that the revised application does not meet some of the most basic requirements of the Great Lakes Compact and am trusting the department to do the right thing for the Great Lakes on this.

First, the city has not done all it must do under the Compact and Wisconsin law to conserve water. Wisconsin's rules require that conservation measures must be implemented before submission of an application. The Compact says these water conservation measures must be implemented before any diversion takes place. Waukesha has long had a water conservation plan — and at one time was a leader on this front — but the Waukesha Water Utility has failed to put sufficient resources into enacting the plan to-date

Secondly, until the Waukesha Water Utility proves that there is no other reasonable way to supply its users with adequate clean water, they have not met the requirements of the Compact and Wisconsin law. While there has been a major drawdown of Waukesha's deep sandstone aquifer over the years, there are signs it is leveling off, even rebounding. Waukesha largely meets safe drinking water requirements for radium now, in part because it blends shallow-aquifer groundwater with deep-aquifer water to reduce the concentration to safe levels. In fact, many places around Wisconsin and the nation safely and economically treat drinking water to remove radium. In addition, radium-free shallow-aquifer groundwater abounds in the Waukesha area. While using this water for its municipal water supply must be done carefully to avoid impacts to interconnected wetlands, springs, and lakes, it is done in many other parts of Wisconsin and elsewhere around the nation. Waukesha simply hasn't proven that the water needs of the area couldn't be met through some combination of local water sources, especially when used in conjunction with a wholehearted conservation effort.

Lake Michigan is extremely valuable to our local, state and regional economies and to our families and the quality of life in our communities. There is a lot at stake for everyone in this first test of the Great Lakes Compact. As you evaluate the application, please ensure that Waukesha has fully met the requirements to divert water outside of the Great Lakes Basin, and that the diversion truly is a justified last resort.

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FORM EMAIL #2 – 150 RECEIVED

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Secondly, until the Waukesha Water Utility proves that there is no other reasonable way to supply its users with adequate clean water, they have not met the requirements of the Compact and Wisconsin law. Waukesha simply hasn't proven that the water needs of the area couldn't be met through some combination of local water sources, especially when used in conjunction with a wholehearted conservation effort.

Additionally, the Department must fully evaluate the environmental impacts locally and downstream on the Fox River and its associated ecosystems. Water quality and quantity in that system cannot be overlooked in this process.

Finally, the Compact requires that as much of the water returned to the Basin originate from within the Basin as possible, and that the "return" of water from outside of the Basin is minimized. There are good reasons for this requirement; for example, it reduces the potential for contaminants to enter into the Basin. However, information from Waukesha suggests that well over one-third of the water it would send back to Lake Michigan under its preferred diversion and return flow plan will be water from the Mississippi Basin. I am concerned this excessive volume of out-of-Basin water violates the requirements of the Compact.

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FORM EMAIL #3 - 3,373 RECEIVED

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Dear Mr. Eric Ebersberger,

I just signed Clean Wisconsin's petition "[Ensure Lake Michigan water is truly Waukesha's last resort](#)" on Change.org.

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In addition, radium-free shallow-aquifer groundwater abounds in the Waukesha area. While using this water for its municipal water supply must be done carefully to avoid impacts to interconnected wetlands, springs, and lakes, it is done in many other parts of Wisconsin and elsewhere around the nation. Waukesha simply hasn't proven that the water needs of the area couldn't be met through some combination of local water sources, especially when used in conjunction with a wholehearted conservation effort.

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