



July 14, 2005

Honorable Jim Doyle, Co-Chair
Honorable Robert Taft, Co-Chair
Council of Great Lakes Governors
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

Honorable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Office of the Premier
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honorable Jean Charest, Premier of Québec
Office of the Premier
Edifice Honoré-Mercier, 3e étage
835 boulevard René-Lévesque Est
Quebec City, Quebec G1A 1B4

Dear Governors Doyle and Taft and Premiers Charest and McGuinty,

One year ago the first draft of the Great Lakes Annex Implementing Agreements was released to citizens of the Great Lakes basin for a 90-day public consultation period. We were extremely concerned with the content of the draft text agreements, the limited public consultation period and the timing of those sessions, held in the summer months.

During the first consultation, many citizens and public interest organizations indicated that in order to have a meaningful process it was necessary to have ample notice, enough time to publicize and receive responses, and written materials that were easy to understand.

However, with the release of the second draft text of the Implementing Agreements it seems these requests have gone unheeded. Not only was a 60-day public consultation period announced before the long holiday weekend at the end of June, but even more egregious was that in Ontario only two weeks of public meetings were scheduled with only one day's notice. This effectively reduced public consultations to mere public information sessions.

In addition, the draft documents were released in exactly the same format as that of their predecessor, thus once again making these documents inaccessible to the public.

This is entirely unacceptable. The Implementing Agreements will have dramatic implications well into the foreseeable future if approved, and it is absolutely necessary that communities be

given the opportunity to be educated on the Agreements, engage in debate and have the right to provide input into shaping the policies that govern our waters. We request that the public consultation period be extended until November 1, 2005. This means not only more time for the public to submit their comments via the Internet but also more meetings for the public to meaningfully engage in this process.

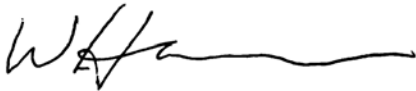
While we recognize that these documents appear to be an improvement over the first draft, significant concerns must be addressed. Therefore we request that the consultation period be extended to November 1, 2005, with an additional period of negotiation and meaningful public consultation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,



Maude Barlow
Volunteer Chair, Council of Canadians



Wenonah Hauter
Director, Public Citizen – Energy and Environment Program



Cyndi Roper
Great Lakes Policy Director, Clean Water Action

cc: The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, Chair, Canadian Section – International Joint Commission
Dennis L. Schornack, Chair, United States Section – International Joint Commission
Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Governor - State of Michigan
Hon. David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources – Province of Ontario
Hon. Thomas J. Mulcair, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, and Parks
– Province of Québec
Hon. Pierre Pettigrew, Minister of Department of Foreign Affairs, Canada
Bruce Levy, Director - Department of Foreign Affairs – US Relations Division, Canada