



For Immediate Release
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The Wisconsin Water Alliance today issued the following statement calling on other environmental groups to join in supporting the water diversion application filed by the City of Racine to support WisConn Valley:

“It is sad to see the activists playing politics when so much is at stake, looking to shut down reasonable, sustainable use of our water only to accomplish their self-serving agenda ahead of the best interests of citizens. Unlike the activists, the Wisconsin Water Alliance believes our Great Lakes states can both responsibly use our key water resources to grow the economy and preserve and protect those resources for our quality of life and future prosperity. A successful WisConn Valley and a healthy Lake Michigan is not an “either/or” proposition. It is “both/and.”

Key facts to keep in mind as it relates to the environmental aspects of WisConn Valley:

- **There will be essentially no impact on Lake Michigan water levels.** With 1,108 cubic miles of water, Lake Michigan contains more than 1.2 quadrillion gallons of water. The city’s proposed diversion would consumptively use a daily average volume equaling 0.00000002 percent of the volume of Lake Michigan. Even if Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois surrounded Lake Michigan with 1,640 WisConn Valleys, placing one such facility along every single mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, the volume of consumptive water use would be just under 0.00002 percent of the volume of the lake
- The city’s application is **not for a new or increased water withdrawal** from Lake Michigan. The city has existing withdrawal capacity. This application is just to use some of that existing capacity in a neighboring community before discharging the return flow to Lake Michigan
- If the application is approved, Racine’s total water usage is estimated to be 19.9 million gallons per day. In 1995, for comparison, the city used 22.1 million gallons per day. If the diversion is approved, Racine’s **water usage will still be substantially less than its past usage**
- Reports that the electronics company seeking to build the project will use 7 million gallons of water a day (mgd) are misleading. The electronics manufacturing facility is only one of the potential users of the water and other users are included in the 7 million gallon per day projection. As outlined in the city’s application, at full build-out in the year 2050, the electronics company is expected to use 5.8 mgd and, of that, **3.3 mgd will be returned to Lake Michigan**



- **Robust water quality laws and regulations** are in place and applicable to this project, protecting the quality of Lake Michigan for future tourists, fishermen, and lovers of the outdoors

There was a time when our state’s environmental voices were more willing to find win-win approaches to support our shared prosperity. As we note in our comments filed with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Democratic Governor Jim Doyle couldn’t have said it better when he announced that Wisconsin had reached an agreement to join the Great Lakes Compact. As reported in the Dunn County News in April 2008 (emphasis added):

Governor Doyle, who was joined at New Berlin City Hall by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, environmental group representatives, and business leaders, called for a special session on April 17. “This is an outstanding day for all of Wisconsin,” Governor Doyle said. “Our Great Lakes waters in many ways define who we are, and now the Great Lakes Compact will ensure that we *protect this tremendous resource while responsibly using the water we need to prosper and grow.*”

We call on the rest of the environmental community to join us now and, like they did in 2008, support responsibly using our water to prosper and grow by supporting the City of Racine’s application.”

The Wisconsin Water Alliance (www.wisconsinwateralliance.org) is a non-partisan, statewide organization whose mission is to help protect the state’s water resources and advocate for sound water policies that benefit current and future generations of Wisconsin families, cities, businesses, farmers and others. Through reasonable state and local policies, the WWA believes Wisconsin can continue to rely upon its fresh water to help drive the state’s economic engine while at the same time protect this precious natural resource.