Waukesha, Wisconsin: 
Putting the Great Lakes Compact to the Test

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Agenda

1. Alliance for the Great Lakes
2. Great Lakes – Precious Resource
3. Waukesha, WI – Precedent Setting Diversion Application
4. Each Great Lakes Governor has a role to play
5. Ripe for a GLLC Policy Workshop?
Our mission at the Alliance for the Great Lakes is to conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource using policy, education and local efforts, ensuring a healthy Great Lakes and clean water for generations of people and wildlife.
Regional in Scale: Projects and partnerships in all 8 Great Lakes States
Respected, non-partisan Great Lakes policy leader
Local in Impact

Bennett Beach
Western Erie County, NY

71st Street/South Shore, Chicago, IL

Edgewater Beach
Cleveland, OH

North Fishing Pier, Belle Isle
Detroit, MI

Bender Park
Milwaukee, WI
A Trusted Name: Received Charity Navigator’s top ‘4-Star’ rating 5 years in a row
The Great Lakes provide drinking water to over 40 million people.

Including 1 in 10 Americans and 1 in 4 Canadians.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU SOLD THE WATER??

I SUPPOSE YOU GOT A HANDFUL OF MAGIC BEANS — I SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR MAGIC ONES?
Diverting across the divide

Waukesha is asking Wisconsin for permission to divert Lake Michigan water across the subcontinental divide. Potential suppliers are Milwaukee, Oak Creek and Racine. If the state agrees, Waukesha must obtain the approval of each of the other seven Great Lakes states before it could buy lake water.
Waukesha’s Diversion Request

- Radium contaminated groundwater – current source of water
- Under order from EPA to comply with radium limits by 2018
- Currently using approximately 6 million gallons of water per day
- Requesting 16.7 million gallons per day max capacity from Lake Michigan, 10.1 million gallons per day on average
- Extended Service Area – Meeting Wisconsin law, but conflicting with the Compact.
Each Governor Gets a Say in the Waukesha Diversion Application Decision
Role for State Legislators

Now:
• Comment to WI DNR before August 28th deadline for comments

Soon:
• Briefings for your colleagues
• State Resolutions
• Comments to your Governor and Administration
• Letters to the Editor or other Media Outreach
• Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Policy Workshop
Questions?

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