

United Tribes of Michigan

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Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

RESOLUTION # 042 02-10-2016

United Tribes of Michigan Opposition to Approving the Waukesha WI Diversion Application to Use Lake Michigan Water

WHEREAS, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and

WHEREAS, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Starting in 2004, Tribal and First Nation Governments participated with the Great Lakes States and Provinces in the development of an Inter-State Compact and International Agreement to prohibit diversions of water from the Great Lakes and to strictly limit and control bulk groundwater withdrawals believing in the vital importance of protecting and preserving sustainable use of these waters; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations have both a strong economic interest and a strong cultural interest in the waters, understanding that water has an essence that is vital for life, for mental well-being, and for the lives of all the beings with whom we share life on Mother Earth. We have inherited sacred duties from our ancestors to respect and protect this complex web of systems. The Great Lakes, for all their apparent volume of water, are actually a fragile system which diversions can disrupt, thus harming our collective futures; and

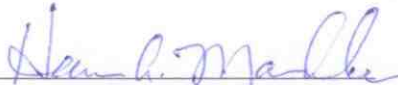
WHEREAS, only under very specific conditions of the Compact were any exceptions to this prohibition to be made and then only for a few communities that met

certain conditions in straddling counties on the edges of the Great Lakes watershed; and

WHEREAS, we do not believe that the City of Waukesha has met these conditions, specifically we join the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's interpretation of the Compact language to limit any use to the City of Waukesha and not to the "water use service area" that is proposed in the application which would result in water being used by several other communities that do not meet the Compact's requirements. If this application is approved, a dangerous precedent would be created.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan is opposed to the approval of the application from the City of Waukesha, WI, for a diversion of Great Lakes water as it currently is written.

Adopted by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on February 10, 2016.


Chairman Homer A. Mandoka
UTM President


Chairwoman Regina Gasco Bentley
UTM Secretary