



## Mayors Applaud Wisconsin Efforts to Ratify Great Lakes Compact

April 9, 2008 - - Mayors from around Wisconsin applaud Governor Jim Doyle's call for a special legislative session to ratify the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, a regional agreement to protect Great Lakes waters and prohibit water diversions. Ratifying legislation is expected to pass at the special legislative session, which will be held on April 17th. Wisconsin will become the fifth Great Lakes State to enact the Compact, joining Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and New York.

"I commend the Governor and Legislature for moving forward with this very critical legislation," said Mayor Gary Becker of Racine, chairman of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI). "We are one step closer to ensuring the waters of this vast freshwater resource are managed wisely for generations to come."

The Compact was endorsed by all eight Great Lakes Governors in 2005 and must be ratified in its original form by each Great Lakes State, and then consented to by Congress, in order to become State and Federal law.

"This is good news for Wisconsin," said Mayor Tom Barrett of Milwaukee, a member of GLSLCI. "The fresh water of the Great Lakes is our greatest natural resource and passing the Compact is essential to protecting that asset. I will continue my advocacy for the Compact's adoption at the State and Federal levels and believe that today's announcement is a huge step forward."

The Compact details how the States will manage and protect the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin. Among the elements included in the Compact are a ban on new diversions of water from the Basin, with limited exceptions; a focus on fostering economic development through sustainable use and responsible management of Basin waters; and the development of regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency that will be implemented by each State.

"Cities on the Great Lakes recognize both the ecological and economic significance of this resource," said Mayor Dave Ross of Superior, a member of GLSLCI. "We couldn't be happier that the Compact is moving through state legislatures towards ratification and we encourage the States of Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania to follow suit soon to protect the Great Lakes."

GLSLCI, a binational coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors and other local elected officials that work to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, has endorsed the Compact since its inception. Members of GLSLCI, like Mayor Becker, Mayor Barrett, Mayor Ross, have worked diligently within their states to support and encourage ratification of the Compact. For more information on the efforts of GLSLCI mayors, please visit [www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org).

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