

A Resolution to Urge the Michigan Legislature to adopt the Great Lakes Compact

The Council recognizes:

1. Michigan is the heart of the Great Lakes Region, bounded by four of the five Great Lakes, and is the only state fully within the Great Lakes basin.
2. Michigan's water resources, renewed naturally by precipitation—within the Great Lakes and throughout the rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater systems all across the state—are vital to the success of Michigan's diverse economy.
3. Hundreds of Michigan employers are invested in Michigan because the water resources provide the basis for the products and services they provide. The economic success of the state—attracting new industries and employers, and expansion of those already here—hinges in substantial measure on Michigan's promotion of its water resources.
4. Michigan holds a duty to its citizens and those of the Great Lakes region to adopt the Great Lakes Compact. Regional policy is necessary to protect the state's and the region's water resources from diversionary plans by governments beyond the Great Lakes region. The Compact is imperative to ensuring the water resources of the state and region remain in the region for the benefit of the region, under direct control of the state of the region, and to protect the region's environment and ecology.
5. The Great Lakes Compact has been adopted by several Great Lakes state legislatures.
6. The Michigan Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs has proposed legislation that would implement the Great Lakes Compact to comport with existing statutes and regulations governing water withdrawals in Michigan. This legislation will ensure consistency and certainty of law by those who must use water and must comply with the law.
7. The Senate legislation will create an online water withdrawal assessment tool that will provide potential major water withdrawers a guide for determining where a large water withdrawal may be ecologically safe.
8. Michigan's regulated water users—the Water Works Coalition comprised of the:
 - Michigan Municipal League
 - Michigan Chamber of Commerce
 - Michigan Groundwater Association
 - Michigan Retailers Association
 - Michigan Soft Drink Association
 - Michigan Aggregates Association
 - Michigan Bottled Water Council
 - Michigan Concrete Paving Association
 - Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, and otherssupport the Senate legislation because it holds the best promise of ensuring Michigan's adoption of the Compact while implementing additional public policy that thoughtfully, scientifically, and responsibly build on Michigan's existing water withdrawal statutes to balance environmental protection, growing the state's commerce, and preserving personal property rights.
9. Michigan has experienced few conflicts among users that would warrant an over-reaching regulatory scheme that would make water off limits to all users.

Accordingly, the Council moves that:

1. We join the Water Works Coalition in urging members of the Michigan House and Senate to address Michigan's need to adopt the Great Lakes Compact and Water Withdrawal legislation to appropriately ensure our state's water resources remain its principal natural economic advantage while being managed for protection of our environment.
2. We join the Water Works Coalition in advocating the Great Lakes Compact and related water regulatory legislative packages advanced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.