

William G. Milliken

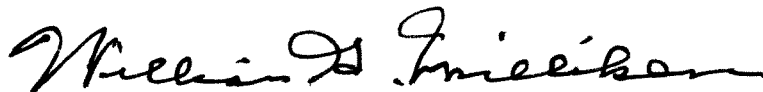
January 29, 2008

Dear Legislator:

Thank you for your concern about the Great Lakes. I am writing to encourage you to carefully consider the enclosed article, which makes clear what is at stake in your action this year on the Great Lakes compact.

It's especially important to note the relationship between the compact and clear, protective Michigan water law standards. Without the latter, this year's legislation could be an invitation to those outside of Michigan to export or divert water. Under principles of international trade law, states must be clear and emphatic about imposing conservation standards for use within their borders, and reserving rights and authority as sovereign owner on behalf of the people of all waters of the state, including the Great Lake within our borders. Because all of the Great Lakes and most of our lakes and streams are protected by the public trust doctrine, it is important that this principle also be preserved and applied without diminishment or dilution. A compromise of protective and public trust principles now will jeopardize our ability to protect our waters from abuse in the future.

Sincerely,



William G. Milliken