



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8th District

February 18, 2008
For Immediate Release
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Supervisor Jursik calls on the State Assembly to bring the Great Lakes Water Compact without changes or delays.

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik, representing the water communities of St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee and parts of Oak Creek is calling on State Assembly Leadership to bring the Great Lakes Water Compact to the floor for a vote without changes. State Representative Scott Gunderson, who represents part of Waukesha, and Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch, who represents areas outside of the water basin, are withholding support while seeking to obtain concessions for the region they represent.

Supervisor Jursik has made the following statement: “The Great Lakes Water Basin is not a political boundary but a natural one. Waukesha County must understand the need to preserve its own ground water as well as the watershed of the Great Lakes. Failure to protect the Great Lakes is not in the interest of Waukesha County. The low lake levels are already threatening our ports that ship the grain and produce of Waukesha farmers; the low lake levels and damaged habitat is affecting a food chain that supplies fish to Waukesha consumers. On a larger scale, the economic viability of the entire region is affected by the health of the Great Lakes; this ultimately affects Waukesha businesses as well as business throughout our state.”

“If Rep. Gunderson and Rep. Huebsch politicize the debate because their districts are outside the natural boundary of this Great Lakes basin, it will have repercussions throughout the region. Need Waukesha and other such communities be reminded that when such time comes to divert and return the water of Lake Michigan, they will be depending on communities that also have political boundaries within the basin?”

“No community can ignore the natural boundaries that define it. Water is not an unlimited resource. Waukesha has already developed beyond the region’s ability to supply safe water. Instead of working to preserve water supplies by supporting the Compact, Rep Gunderson and Rep. Huebsch are creating a water war within our own state. Such negative efforts should be redirected to the preservation and conservation of each natural habitat—within and without the basin. On behalf of my district within the basin, I call on the Assembly to pass the Great Lakes Water Compact without change and without delay.”

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