

RESOLUTION: DIVERSION OF LAKE MICHIGAN WATER TO MOUNT PLEASANT

Resolved: That the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region (LWV UMRR) Interleague Organization opposes the diversion of water from Lake Michigan to the Foxconn Technology Group in Mount Pleasant Wisconsin.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that does not endorse candidates for public office. Nearly 100 years old, it was formed for the purpose of educating and advocating on issues of public concern and supported the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act and holds positions on water transfer impacts on ecosystem integrity.

LWV UMRR is made up of 51 local Leagues of Women Voters chapters as well as the state Leagues of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. Its focus is the quality and quantity of water in the Mississippi River Basin from the source of the Mississippi River in Minnesota to its confluence with the Ohio in southern Illinois. We work on water issues in our four member states - Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, two of which also share the Lake Michigan Watershed.

WHEREAS

The City of Racine proposes to divert an average of 7 million gallons of water daily from Lake Michigan to meet the industrial needs of Foxconn Technology Group and manufacturing campus, a private company and other users and the return will be 39% less in amount and uncertain quality than what is required by the Great Lakes Compact Agreement.

AND WHEREAS

The Great Lakes Compact, an eight state and two Canadian province "leadership pact" sets rules for the withdrawal and return of water from the Great Lakes, and states, "All the Water so transferred shall be used solely for Public Water Supply." LWV UMRR supports the compact goal of preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes.

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AND WHEREAS

The proposed diversion could set a dangerous precedent for the diversion of water in any of the Great Lakes.

AND FURTHERMORE

Foxconn Technology Group has been given permission to "mitigate" wetlands that currently protect the headwaters of the Des Plaines River and the Fox River, which eventually feeds into the Mississippi River, which will ultimately impact pollution in the river and cause watershed changes in surface and ground water due to runoff often through flooding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

We urge the rejection of the proposal to divert water from Lake Michigan for the Foxconn industrial project

Approved by the LWV UMRR Board of Directors, June 21, 2018 along with directions to share widely including appropriate elected representative, investigate possible legal remedies, and track the monitoring of the legal and watershed effects of the proposed project.