From:	Kendl Kobbervig
To:	DNR Racine Diversion Comments
Subject:	Public Comment: Racine Diversion
Date:	Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:42:40 PM
Attachments:	Public Comment - Racine Diversion Application.docx

Hello,

My name is Kendl Kobbervig. I am a student at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and I am strongly opposed to Racine's application to divert 7 million gallons a day from Lake Michigan. Below and attached are my comments on the application.

Thank you for your time.
Kendl Kobbervig

The Great Lakes contain 21% of the world's freshwater and are one of our nation's most precious resources. The intent of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) is to protect the Great Lakes from withdrawals with limited exceptions. These exceptions include withdrawals on behalf of communities and straddling communities in the Great Lakes Basin. While Racine and Mount Pleasant meet this definition, the Foxconn facility most certainly does not. Not only is Foxconn an internationally based private company, it is seeking this quantity of water for purely commercial purposes. Further, Foxconn is joining the Racine community simply because Governor Walker has promised more than $4.5 billion in tax breaks in exchange for a vague promise of anywhere from 3,000 to 13,000 jobs with no guarantee that these will be filled by Wisconsin residents.

Setting a Precedent

The exemption to the Compact for the diversion requested by the city of Waukesha has already set a dangerous precedent, but the proposal on behalf of Racine is yet more ludicrous. While Waukesha requested an exception to the Compact in the name of public health, Racine is requesting nearly the same withdrawal amount in the name of profit. If Racine's application is approved it will send a signal to private companies across the globe that Wisconsin's water resources are ready for the taking.

Potential for Contamination

More than 800 contaminants have already been identified in Great Lakes water and sediment. Manufacturing liquid crystal displays produces toxins known to cause heart disease and respiratory failure in animals. As of yet Foxconn has not provided even the semblance of a plan for ensuring the quality of the 4.2 million gallons of water it plans to return to Lake Michigan each day, a quantity representing a 125% increase in water to be regularly handled by Racine's wastewater treatment plant. This is especially concerning given Foxconn's less than reputable environmental record. In China, they have been accused of dumping toxic heavy metals into rivers and sewers in addition to endangering workers with the use of industrial solvents.

Conclusion

Although this application bears Racine's name, it is undeniably on behalf of Foxconn, which plans to use the entirety of the diverted water. In the context of the government, public is defined as "relating to the government and the services it provides for people." Foxconn is a private corporation with the mission of "providing[ing] the lowest 'total cost' solution to increase the affordability of electronic products for all mankind." Thus, this application does not meet the first straddling community diversion requirement, that the diverted water will be used solely for public water supply purposes. In conclusion, to approve this application would violate the Compact and pose a serious threat to Wisconsin's water resources.