From: Andrew Bielanski
To: DNR Racine Diversion Comments
Subject: City of Racine Water Diversion Application Comments
Date: Sunday, March 18, 2018 8:05:41 PM

My name is Andrew Bielanski, and I am a resident of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. I am writing you in support for the City of Racine water diversion application; I believe that the water diversion application should be approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. While I am not a resident of Racine, Mount Pleasant, or the immediate area, I do live in the "straddling community" of Pleasant Prairie, and your decision on Racine's water diversion application will set a precedent for other straddling communities that will impact their futures.

Per news media reports, the City of Racine drinking water facility is operating at roughly 25-30% of its capacity. Even with the diversion of approximately 7 million gallons per day for the Foxconn facility, the City of Racine drinking water facility would be withdrawing water from Lake Michigan below its allotment, and producing potable water below the capacity of the drinking water facility. Many people protest the City of Racine water diversion application on the basis that there is a water quantity issue. There is no water quantity issue based on Lake Michigan water allotments for the communities involved, and the capacity of the City of Racine drinking water facility.

I have also heard news reports which allege that the City of Racine water diversion would violate the spirit of the Great Lakes Water Compact. These reports claim that water withdrawals from the Great Lakes were only meant for public purposes, and the City of Racine water diversion application is essentially for a private entity (the Foxconn facility). I looked up the Great Lakes Water Compact and there is key definition that is hardly mentioned in any of these reports. In the Great Lakes Water Compact there is a definition for "Public Water Supply Purposes" which means "…water distributed to the public through a physically connected system of treatment, storage, and distribution facilities serving a group of largely residential customers <u>that may also serve industrial, commercial, and other institutional operators</u>. Water Withdrawn directly from the Basin and not through such a system shall not be considered to be used for Public Water Supply Purposes." This same definition can also be found in Wisconsin statutes. Based on this definition the City of Racine water diversion would <u>not</u> violate the Great Lakes Water Compact since the City of Racine drinking water facility, through its system of treatment, storage, and distribution, would supply potable water to its residents plus an industrial user such as the new Foxconn facility. There is no public versus private issue as alleged in some news reports. I will also add that I do not believe the drafters of the Great Lakes Water Compact would so narrowly define "Public Water Supply Purposes" to only mean residential use. They wisely added industrial, commercial, and institutional operators to the definition since these users are part of the general public and essential community members as well.

Lastly, I would like to address the issue of water quality being returned back to the Lake Michigan basin. To be very honest, I do not know the various components of the waste stream that will need to be treated before the wastewater is released to the City of Racine wastewater treatment plant. However, as an environmental engineer I do know that successful pretreatment processes do exist, and that wastewater treatment operators are very diligent when it comes to industrial waste discharges since these discharges have the potential to upset their biological treatment processes (a very bad situation). I've heard forecasts of doom due to Foxconn pollution from people that aren't even experts in wastewater treatment. I believe that these people have taken snippets of information out of context in order to support their arguments for disapproval of the City of Racine water diversion application. City of Racine wastewater operating personnel are more credible from a technical perspective than many of the people protesting against the water diversion application. I am of the opinion that these people are exhibiting "Not in my Backyard" syndrome, and are offering arguments that tug at emotion but have little technical validity. If facilities such as the proposed Foxconn facility are so poisonous then why are these same people using products made at these facilities? Wouldn't they have a moral obligation to <u>not</u> buy such products so that the facilities go out of business and not produce the pollution? Again, I do not know enough regarding the Foxconn waste stream but am inclined to support technical arguments presented by the City of Racine wastewater personnel as opposed to "Not in my Backyard" excuses presented by non-experts.

As I mentioned in my opening paragraph, your decision on Racine's water diversion application will set a precedent for other straddling communities that will impact their futures. I urge you to be fair and thorough in your review of the City of Racine water diversion application, and consider credible technical arguments above emotional arguments. Thank you for allowing me to comment, and present my views in support of the City of Racine water diversion application.

Regards,

Andrew Bielanski