From: Ashlee Schmid-Valona
To: DNR Racine Diversion Comments
Subject: Water diversion application
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:22:35 AM

Good morning,

I am a resident of Racine and a concerned citizen. The proposal under consideration does not seem to make any sense to me under the regulations of the Great Lakes Compacts. For many years rivers and lakes in Wisconsin were used for manufacturing and factories, abused and disregarded. Then the Great Lakes Compacts finally saw reason, and vowed to protect these resources for the treasures they are. The waterways are not only beneficial for recreation, tourism, but for sustaining life, ecosystems, the health of the people and the land we love. If this application is reviewed and passed I will lose faith in all systems of checks and balances as this application will only further the agenda of politicians and businesses without taking into consideration the larger picture.

We have the most coveted resource in the whole world- the Great Lakes. It is our duty, and should be our honor, to protect it at all costs! This water would be going to a community/business outside the water basin not to mention a foreign business with agendas and plans that don't take into consideration the host's resource conservation. The amount of water that will be used is not for public consumption but for private. There is not set plan to confidently say that they will only consume the amount allowed and how they will go about putting the excess water back into the lake in a sustainable way. Will it negatively impact Root River and the communities around it? Will it make the lake near Racine dirty and unswimmable, closing down tourist attractions like North Beach? Will my daughters drinking water at Olympia Brown, right off the lake, be impacted? These are just short term questions. What about long term ecological and environmental impacts, not to mention economic impacts for cleaning up the mess they leave behind? This is our land and our coveted resource, and we need to make it much harder for a foreign business to come here and make a mess of it. Strict limits and regulations are the only way to proceed. Please be the guardians for the people and for the life sustaining lake that makes this region so wonderful!

Thank you for your consideration,

Ashlee Rybak

Sent from my iPhone