From:	Cheryl
To:	DNR Racine Diversion Comments
Subject:	Opposed to Foxconn water diversion
Date:	Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:38:38 PM

Dear Adam Freihoefer,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Racine County to ask you to NOT approve the diversion request to supply the proposed Foxconn development with Great Lakes basin water resources, which is currently being considered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. And I am also writing to ask that your department remember to be true to and accountable to your mission: “To protect and enhance our natural resources,” especially in all dealings with Foxconn, power plants, and other industries.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact states that acceptable straddling community diversions be "used solely for Public Water Supply Purposes within the Straddling Community." Public water supply purposes means the primary use should be for “a group of largely residential customers." Foxconn is a private company, and clearly not “a group of largely residential customers.” Therefore the diversion should not be allowed.

I am troubled by the fact that Foxconn was exempted from certain environmental requirements and regulations, despite the company having a less than stellar environmental record in Asia, and that the approval process has been rushed rather than carefully considered. I am worried about the impact the plant will have on wetlands, waterways, and watersheds in the surrounding areas. There is a great potential risk of contamination to ground water supplies, Lake Michigan, and the Great Lakes basin, as well as risks of air pollution. Allowing environmental exemptions to Foxconn, and possibly allowing this diversion of water, sets a bad precedent that will likely cause a weakening of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and threaten the health of the Great Lakes and the 30,000,000+ people and 3500+ species of plants and animals who live near them and rely on them.

On the DNR website it states:
“Clean air, clean water and healthy landscapes. These are foundations of Wisconsin's economy, environment and quality of life. They are the assets that separate us from the rest of the pack. Protecting and enhancing them will benefit everyone in Wisconsin - and require everyone's help. Early planning and consultation with DNR, strong, sound regulations, cost sharing and partnerships are the keys.”
And the Mission of the DNR is written as:
“To protect and enhance our natural resources: our air, land and water; our wildlife, fish and forests and the ecosystems that sustain all life. ...
And in this partnership consider the future and generations to follow.”

It frightens me that there seems to be a shift these days toward business and profit concerns and away from environmental concerns, even among the very people who are charged with protecting the country and the environment. I hope and trust that you will do what is right and what is needed to create and uphold “strong and sound regulations” to “protect and enhance our natural resources: our air, land and water; our wildlife, fish and forests and the ecosystems that sustain all life” - especially the Great Lakes, the source of 20% of the earth’s fresh water - for today’s world and for “the future and generations to follow.”

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Keopanya
4823 Charles Street
Racine, WI 53402