From:	Seth Johnson
To:	DNR Racine Diversion Comments
Subject:	Concerned about Wisconsin"s future
Date:	Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:09:22 AM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to strongly discourage the state DNR from intentionally refusing to enforce Wisconsin state laws in order to allow Foxconn to divert Lake Michigan water outside of it's basin. This isn't just about the project itself, but also the precedent such a failure to enforce the law would set.

I grew up in Wisconsin, went to college in Wisconsin, and one day hope to return there and raise a family there. Key to my children's futures, and the future of all people who will one day call Wisconsin home, is the protection of, and wise usage of our freshwater resources. When one considers that climate change will over time, probably tend to cause large swaths of the country to become drier and hotter, states like Wisconsin will come under increasing pressure from those areas to provide water from the great lakes watershed, to maintain agriculture and municipal water usage in those areas. What basis will the state have at that time, if it decides now that diversion is acceptable for strictly corporate use, to refuse those areas?

The great lakes watershed is not an infinite and renewable resource. Despite the massive amount of water it contains, if we divert large, say industrial amounts of water out of the watershed, it is entirely possible that lake levels could fall in ways that could not readily be replaced. Instead of setting a precedent that could make the drying up of the lakes for commerce and wide-scale usage inevitable, we ought to prepare for the eventuality that people living in Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and other particularly dry and vulnerable states, will make their way to the great lakes region in the next few centuries. We will be much better suited to deal with major population increases that allow us to keep the water in the watershed, than we will be so sustain our current population while also diverting huge amounts of water westward, to sustain communities which will one day be unable to sustain themselves on their own watersheds.

I can sympathize with the Republican controlled government of the past seven years' desire to create jobs, attract business, and create opportunities for Wisconsin to grow. But it would be utterly irresponsible to cash our water check today, and set up the conditions that will empty our savings account tomorrow. We should think of ourselves as parents, grandparents, and even great grandparents, and not undertake actions that, while giving ourselves a greater range of choice right now, will necessarily deprive the choices of our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Seth Johnson

Marquette University Class of 2016
JD Candidate, Loyola University Chicago, 2020

Sent from Mail for Windows 10