From: Albert, Naomi R
To: DNR Racine Diversion Comments
Subject: Public Comment City of Racine Water Diversion Application
Date: Sunday, March 11, 2018 9:32:03 PM

I am a natural resource planning student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. I have spent the last three years in school learning about the state's natural systems, including the water cycle. Like many Wisconsin residents, I have spent many summer days enjoying the Great Lakes, which is one reason they are so important to me. As both a resident of Wisconsin and student of Natural Resources, I find the water diversion request for the Foxconn plant by the city of Racine very concerning.

Although the amount of water that the plant would consume each day may not be enough to have a great impact on Lake Michigan, I am concerned by the precedent that this approval would set. If similar industries continue to locate near the Great Lakes they could have a greater cumulative impact in the future. Allowing this diversion tests the boundaries of the Great Lakes Compact; the water which Foxconn uses should not be counted as part of a public water supply. If Foxconn is allowed to use this water, how can future industries be denied the same request? Therefore, allowing this diversion makes the Great Lakes more vulnerable to more withdrawals in the future by out of state industries who locate here because of our water resources.

Additionally, I am concerned that the elements used in LCD screens could contaminate the water. I fear that the City of Racine's wastewater treatment facility may be ill-equipped to remove these type of contaminants which could have a detrimental impact on human health.

I support job creation, however, I question how many long term jobs Foxconn will provide. Foxconn has only committed to providing 3,000 jobs, although there is the potential for up to 13,000 jobs this is not guaranteed. The company's history overseas makes me doubtful that this number will ever be met. Foxconn has been automating many of their operations overseas. In 2016, the BBC reported that Foxconn replaced 60,000 workers in a Chinese factory with robots. I wonder what would prevent them from doing the same in Wisconsin. Because of these concerns, I do not believe that the benefits from the Foxconn plant would outweigh the risks. For this reason, I hope that the DNR will deny the city of Racine's water diversion request.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Naomi Albert