

# Press Highlights



68 Separate Media Pieces Across The Great Lakes Region Raise Concerns About Waukesha's Water Application



	WI	MI	IN	IL	OH	PA	NY	Other	Total	
Print	22	2	1	4	0	4	1	3	1	38
Radio	16	1	3							20
Television	2									2
Opinion	7		1							8

MILWAUKEE · WISCONSIN  
**JOURNAL SENTINEL**

**Opponents of Waukesha water diversion plan focus on service map**

**Don Behm**  
7.12.15

"The coalition's rejection of a state-required water supply service area plan already has become a rallying cry for other environmental groups throughout the Great Lakes region, from Minnesota to New York, in opposition to the city's request. Their claims likely will reverberate in the capitals of the eight Great Lakes states in the next year as Waukesha attempts to win the unanimous approval of all eight governors. A unanimous vote is required under a 2008 Great Lakes protection compact."

**Shepherd**  
EXPRESS

**Does Waukesha really need Lake Michigan water?**

**Lisa Kaiser**  
7.09.15

"If Waukesha gets its way and eventually includes these additional towns, expect a huge, costly investment in infrastructure that isn't necessary under the CIC's alternative."

**The New York Times**

**Waukesha plan for Lake Michigan water raises worries**

**Monica Davey**  
8.25.15

"If national drought conditions and the economic and political pressures that follow worsen over time, some Midwestern water experts fear that the lakes' existing protections might ultimately weaken. Waukesha's quest for water — the first proposal for such a diversion outside the Great Lakes basin in years — is seen by some as a first major test of the compact, its strength and its limits."

**greenbaypressgazette**  
A GANNETT COMPANY .com

**Science, cost don't support Great Lakes diversion plan**

**George Meyer**  
8.12.15

"The data is in and the conclusions are clear: Waukesha can sustainably meet its current and future water needs for its water service supply area by treating existing deep groundwater wells for radium and other contaminants, without depleting its groundwater supply. And it can do this at one-half the cost to their ratepayers."

**MINNPOST**

**Waukesha wins Wisconsin DNR support in bid to export water from Great Lakes basin**

**Ron Meador**  
7.02.15

"But if it succeeds in staking this claim, based on a narrow-sounding exception in the rule against out-of-basin diversions, Waukesha will become the first municipality entirely outside the basin to be granted rights to Great Lakes water. And that will set a precedent that hundreds of other communities across eight states and two Canadian provinces could point to and say: Hey, what about us?"

**MILWAUKEE BUSINESS JOURNAL**

**Waukesha plan to tap Lake Michigan gets DNR OK, but debate is just beginning**

**Sean Ryan**  
6.25.15

"Environmental organizations such as the Wisconsin Compact Implementation Coalition are pushing Waukesha to do more, hoping to establish a stronger enforcement precedence for the compact. They will be among the groups providing input to the DNR during a public comment period that ends Aug. 28. The final plan could be modified based on that feedback."



## Racial justice advocates, environmentalists oppose water diversion to Waukesha

The Wisconsin Gazette  
8.28.15

"Allies in the fight include the Sierra Club, the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin, Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope and the NAACP-Milwaukee Branch. The racial justice groups object to Waukesha's application because diverting water to the suburbs will worsen segregation and racial disparities. Waukesha, in its application, makes clear that it wants a diversion of water to accommodate growth — industrial, commercial and residential expansion."



## Hands off: A water diversion plan threatens the Great Lakes

Editorial board  
8.26.15

"Gov. Wolf should be vigilant about fighting big diversions of water from the lake's watershed. Lake Erie is a major asset for Pennsylvania in commerce, jobs, recreation and natural beauty. Every governor's vote counts because it will take the unanimous consent of all eight Great Lakes states for Wisconsin to divert water."



## Majority at Racine hearing oppose Waukesha water diversion plan

Chuck Quirnbach  
8.19.15

"The majority of people who spoke at a public hearing in Racine on Tuesday night expressed concerns about the state Department of Natural Resource's preliminary approval of a plan to allow Waukesha to divert water from Lake Michigan."



## Put away the straw: A plan to divert water from one of the Great Lakes threatens all of the lakes and their states, including Ohio

Editorial Board  
8.26.15

"Why does this matter to Ohioans? If Wisconsin approves this unjustified diversion from Lake Michigan, all other lakes — and their states — inevitably will face similar demands, not just internally but also from outside the Great Lakes region. If that happens, the compact that protects the lakes would be fatally weakened."

## THE PLAIN DEALER



## Waukesha's Great Lakes water grab should sink without a ripple

Editorial Board  
8.26.15

"The request flies in the face of both the letter and the spirit of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, a binding 2008 agreement among the eight states that border the lakes — including Wisconsin — to prevent such wholesale diversions. Two Canadian provinces adopted similar provisions. Yet the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources — with the apparent blessing of Republican presidential candidate Walker — has not deep-sixed the proposal. Instead, the department is reviewing the request to see if it is "approvable," according to Pete Johnson, deputy director of the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers. The conference was created in June at a leadership summit in Quebec City."



## Be careful with the Great Lakes

Editorial Board  
8.31.15

"City officials note, correctly, that the amount of the diversion is infinitesimal compared to the volume of the lakes. Yet this matter isn't about Waukesha alone. What John Kasich and his fellow governors must weigh is the precedent that could be set, the potential for opening doors to others, the compact put at risk. The governors must take care in their analyses and decision-making."



## After public hearings, concerns linger on Waukesha's drive for lake water

Mark Schaaf  
8.22.15

"State Rep. Cory Mason is among many skeptical of Waukesha using the Root River as its return route to Lake Michigan, saying the consequences would not be known until years afterward. Mason, D-Racine, believes the wastewater would pollute the river and have a "real impact on health." He said Waukesha has not made the case on how it won't degrade the river."



## Keep Great Lakes water at home

Editorial Board  
9.7.15

"Several Michigan lawmakers have joined their peers from the seven other Great Lakes states in expressing concern about a proposal by a Wisconsin city to divert water from the the lakes basin.

It's a questionable request, and one that would violate a core principle of the Great Lakes Compact, the joint states and federal agreement forged to protect the region's most valuable resource."