



October 30, 2007

Ald. Michael J. Murphy  
(414) 286-2221

## Great Lakes Charter Annex

*Protecting The Nation's Freshwater*

Today the Public Works Committee unanimously passed a resolution that Milwaukee will not sign final agreements relating to the sale of water to communities outside the Great Lakes basin until all eight state legislatures in the Council of Great Lakes and two Canadian provinces ratify the compact protecting the region. Ald. Murphy said, "The fragile ecology of the Great Lakes region has suffered greatly from pollution of invasive species and passing this agreement would go a long way toward protecting and preserving this precious resource."

Mayor Barrett said, "The Great Lakes states and provinces must come together under the Compact to establish a universal set of principles that will ensure fairness and protect the region. We know other parts of the country will look to the Great Lakes to solve their water shortages."

"The legislature has had over a year to enact this legislation and they need to act on it now," Ald. Murphy said. The compact provides a legal framework on who controls the use of the water and how much. Once the compact is ratified, the City of Milwaukee may enter into agreements for the sale of water to neighboring communities outside the Great Lakes Basin. This resolution will go before the full Common Council on November 9, 2007. Ald. Murphy said, "The Great Lakes contain 90% of the nation's fresh water and we have a moral responsibility to protect it for generations to come."

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