

June 15, 2009

Milwaukee Common Council  
City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Members of the Milwaukee Common Council,

Today a coalition of Milwaukee's neighborhood, faith, labor and environmental groups is asking the Milwaukee Common Council to pass a city resolution permanently suspending plans to lease the city's drinking water system.

Last October, City Comptroller Wally Morics proposed privatizing the Milwaukee Water Works as a means of generating new revenue for the city. The plan would involve leasing the city's drinking water system to a company for 75 to 99 years in return for an upfront payment to the city.

We believe the Milwaukee Water Works should not be leased and should remain publicly owned and operated. Access to safe and affordable water is vital for our families, businesses and our community. It is therefore crucial that this resource remain under the direct control of the public. While Milwaukee's financial problems are very serious, privatizing the city's drinking water is not a solution and would be the wrong choice for Milwaukee.

On May 28, members of the Milwaukee Common Council stated that would be temporarily "shelving" the lease proposal, although privatization remained "on the table." This action is not adequate to assure the people of Milwaukee that our water will remain clean, affordable and in public hands.

The undersigned groups ask that Common Council pass a resolution permanently suspending the proposal to lease Milwaukee's Water Works and concluding its inquiry into privatization of the city's water system.

Attached you will also find a petition, begun on June 3, signed by individuals opposed to any lease or sale of the Milwaukee Water Works.

Sincerely,

AFSCME District Council 48  
AFSCME Local 550  
Campaign Against Violence  
Great Waters Group Sierra Club  
Institute for Wisconsin's Future  
Keep Public Our Water Coalition  
Making Milwaukee Green Coalition

Midwest Environmental Advocates  
Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Riverside Park NA  
Senior Water Advocates Network  
Water Works Local 952  
Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

