

August 3, 2011

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of the State of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

We are writing to express our interest in resolving our differences over the implementation language for the Great Lakes Compact. We were extremely disappointed when you decided to veto House Bill 231 after months of working closely with your administration on this landmark legislation.

HB 231 passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support in both chambers. It set threshold levels and included other provisions to comply with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact signed in 2008.

HB 231 went through an open and transparent process with a total of nine hearings, five in the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee and two in the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Committee. This was in addition to two hearings that its companion bill, Senate Bill 170, had in the Senate.

Throughout this process legislators were working with staff from both the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. ODNR twice gave proponent testimony on this bill, first on June 1 by Assistant Director Scott Zody and again on June 15 by Ted Lozier, Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources, where he stated, "We have worked with the sponsors and with other stakeholders, and all of our major concerns have been addressed."

That is why we were surprised to hear that, after all of these hearings, and close coordination with our staff, you had serious concerns with the legislation.

Access to affordable, abundant and reliable water supplies from the Lake Erie Basin is essential to retaining and attracting businesses to northern Ohio.

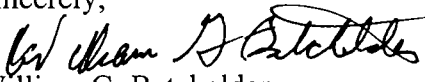
STATEHOUSE COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215


It is imperative we know your specific reservations with what we both believed was a very strong bill promoting jobs that included the necessary safety measures to protect our state's greatest natural resource, Lake Erie.

The Compact gives states broad and wide flexibility to determine how they want to implement their program. HB 231 meets all necessary provisions in the Compact and does so in a way that works well for Ohio's citizens and businesses. In order for Ohio to remain economically competitive we need to encourage ongoing investment by utilizing the abundant water resources we have available.

We look forward to reviewing your specific concerns, and working collaboratively to finalize implementation language that protects the interests of our state as a signatory of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Sincerely,


William G. Batchelder
Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives


Tom Niehaus
President of the Ohio Senate