# Water Use Legislation Coalition

*"Five Lakes, One Compact, Our Future"*

November 7, 2007

**To:** Michigan House of Representatives Great Lakes and Environment Committee

**From:** Dr. Grenetta Thomassey, Policy Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Statewide Coordinator, Great Lakes, Great Michigan Coalition

Dear Representatives,

Good Afternoon Chairman Warren and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I am Policy Director at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, but I come before you today as Statewide Coordinator of the Great Lakes, Great Michigan Coalition. This Coalition has nearly 50 members and is growing every week. It includes businesses, lake associations, and agricultural, religious, environmental, and citizen action groups from across the state. The members are listed on your copy of my testimony. These groups are very engaged, interested in regular updates about what is happening in Lansing, and quite concerned about the Great Lakes and our very special inland water resources upon which their lives and lifestyles depend.

We advocate passage of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact with strong implementing legislation, and we advocate improving our current state water use laws. We support this package of water bills because they accomplish four key objectives:

1 – All waters of the state are recognized as public resources and subject to public trust protection.

2 – Large water users conserve water and demonstrate that that they are using it efficiently.

3 – The Assessment Tool is adopted as part of a larger process, using a very conservative approach because this is brand new science.

4 – The public has to opportunity to be well-informed, with time to review and participate in the process. Decisions can therefore adequately reflect the values each community places on their water.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this important package.

## THE 2007 GREAT LAKES, GREAT MICHIGAN COALITION

(As of November 1, 2007):

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| Burt Lake Preservation Association | Michigan Division of the Izaak Walton League |
| Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination | Michigan Environmental Council |
| Clean Water Action | Michigan Farmers Union |
| Clinton River Watershed Council | Michigan League of Conservation Voters |
| Committee on the Environment and Jewish Life | Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council |
| Detroit Audubon Society | Muskegon Save Our Shoreline |
| Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice | Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council |
| East Michigan Environmental Action Council | Panthers for Social Justice (formally Gray Panthers of Huron Valley) |
| Ecology Center | Paul H. Young Chapter, Trout Unlimited |
| Environment Michigan | Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association |
| Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters | The Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes |
| Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy | Republicans for Environmental Protection |
| Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund | SEEDS |
| Great Lakes Bioneers | Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter |
| Greening of Detroit | Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary |
| Huron River Watershed Council | St. Clair Channel Keeper |
| Interface Fabrics | Superior Watershed Partnership |
| Justice and Peace Task Force of Plymouth | Thomas J. Newhouse-Design |
| League of Women Voters of Michigan | Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council |
| Lott3Metz Architecture, LLC | Voices for Earth Justice |
| Macomb NOW | The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay |
| Michigan Citizen Action | West Michigan Environmental Action Council |
| Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation | White River Watershed Partnership |
| | Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve |