



Chairman
Assembly Judiciary Committee

MARK D. GUNDRUM

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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November 20, 2006
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BUREAU OF WATERSHED MGNT

Ms. Maureen Connors
Office of the Great Lakes
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Connors:

I am writing to respond to the request for public comment on the City of New Berlin proposal to withdraw additional water from Lake Michigan. I am expressing my support for New Berlin's request for a number of reasons.

First, it is my understanding that under the existing law, the proposed use of water west of the sub-continental divide is a non-diversion because an amount of water equal to or greater than the amount withdrawn will be returned to the Great Lakes basin under the proposal. Approval of this request will be consistent with other similar approvals in the Kenosha and Menomonee Falls areas.

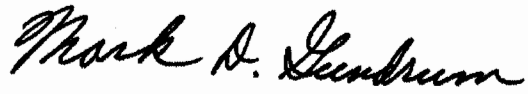
Second, the proposed rules for straddling communities, as laid out in the Great Lakes Compact, obviously will allow the type of withdrawal New Berlin is proposing. As I see it, if it is allowable under both current and future rules, there should be no reason to deny the request.

Finally, if treatment for radium is required instead of additional non-diversion use of Lake Michigan water, the City will not only continue to dump tons of private water softener salt back to the basin, but will also now send removed iron and radium back to the basin via the sanitary sewer system. We need to look closely at the whole environment when making these types of decisions.

New Berlin is facing short-term costs of many millions of dollars as well as long-term operation costs of many more millions to treat the water from deep wells for radium. The option to obtain additional water from Lake Michigan makes legal, fiscal and

environmental sense. To do anything else would be a disservice to the people of New Berlin and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Gundrum".

Mark Gundrum
State Representative
84th Assembly District

MGD:lcb