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MAYOR HAILS WISCONSIN GREAT LAKES COMPACT ACCORD

Toledo, Ohio - Mayor Finkbeiner today expressed his pleasure that Governor Jim Doyle of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin state legislature have reached an agreement on the Great Lakes Compact to preserve the integrity of Great Lakes Water. He is urging Governor Ted Strickland and the Ohio General Assembly to move quickly to join Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and New York in ratifying this agreement.

“Fresh water is becoming an increasingly important national resource as cities and states in the south and in the Sunbelt find their water supplies dwindling,” said Mayor Finkbeiner. “With demand for potable water increasing all over the world, the cities and states of the Great Lakes Basin must act together to assure we protect our greatest economic and environmental resource.”

Among elements included in the Compact are a ban on water diversions from the Basin, with limited exceptions; a focus on fostering economic development through sustainable use and responsible management of Great Lakes water, and development of regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency within each of the states.

“Water is the reason Toledo was founded and will be a vital part of our future,” Finkbeiner added. “We use our water for drinking, for transportation, and for manufacturing. It’s impossible to overstate its importance.”

Mayor Finkbeiner has requested to be allowed to testify before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Ohio Senate on the importance of Lake Erie to Toledo and Northwest Ohio’s economy. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative - the Chicago-based organization spearheading the effort.

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