



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CORY MASON

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
REPRESENTING THE RACINE COMMUNITY

October 31, 2013

Dan Duchniak
General Manager
Waukesha Water Utility
115 Delafield Street
Waukesha, WI 53188

Dear Mr. Duchniak,

As a State Representative serving the Racine community, I was pleased to see that you have scheduled four public hearings on the City of Waukesha's application for a diversion of Lake Michigan water, including a hearing in Racine.

However, I have now reviewed the proposed format for these hearings, and I am concerned that this format will greatly limit the public's ability to provide meaningful input. **I am writing to request that you modify the format for these upcoming public hearings.**

While breakout sessions can be helpful, they are no substitute for a format that allows the public to comment on the proposal in full. Your current format does not allow for the full public conversation and depth of public input needed on this complex proposal. As currently structured, these hearings will not allow the public to give testimony on Waukesha's application. Nor does your format allow the public to ask questions of the presenters, and receive answers that the entire audience could hear. **I am requesting that you instead structure these hearings to allow for both public testimony and questions from the audience and responses from the presenters.**

I plan to be at the Racine hearing on Thursday, November 14th and I have the full expectation that members of the public and I will be able to speak and offer comments about Waukesha's proposal to divert Lake Michigan water in violation of the Great Lakes Compact, and that there will be an opportunity for questions and answers of the presenters.

I'm sure you agree that this process should be open and informative and that the public, the Water Utility, and the Department of Natural Resources are all best served by a process that allows for real and meaningful public comment.

Since the first public hearing is scheduled for next Thursday, November 7th, I would like to hear from you by Monday, November 4th whether you will modify the format for these public hearings. Please contact me at (608) 266-0634 or via email at Rep.Mason@legis.wi.gov.

Sincerely,

Cory Mason
State Representative
66th Assembly District

