

Protecting Our Great Lakes

Written by Kathleen Vinehout, State Senator 31st District
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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/lake-michigan-shore-s5.jpg>



The collaborative work of eight states and two Canadian provinces, members of the Great Lakes Compact, protects and enhances the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world despite the potential challenge of large water withdrawals by Foxconn and other businesses in Wisconsin.

MADISON - Our Great Lakes hold twenty-one percent of all the world's fresh surface water. Wisconsin has over 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. More than half our population lies within its watershed. The Lakes provide us with many opportunities for recreation, commerce, transportation, and immeasurable occasions to enjoy their immense beauty.

Folks are worried about protecting our Great Lakes. Particularly when the state rushed through, about a year ago, a very large corporate subsidy to a Taiwanese company. David Hon of Eau Claire was one of many who wrote, "The environmental exemptions proposed are unfair to the companies that have had to struggle through permitting for good reason. ... [Environmental protections] are there to protect what little is left of natural resources in that part of the state. I'm concerned the Great Lakes Compact would be substantially violated."

The Great Lakes Compact protects our Great Lakes. This agreement between the states and Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes is enshrined in law.

Wisconsin recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the signing of this law.

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