



23-4: Monitoring Withdrawals within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin

- WHEREAS,** the legislatures of the eight Great Lakes states ratified the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact in 2008 with Congressional consent, which seeks to align standards for water use, management, and conservation across the states and provinces under the leadership of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council); and
- WHEREAS,** emerging technologies and water users are proposing large withdrawals from the basin, with partial consumptive use, including but not limited to hyperscale data centers; and
- WHEREAS,** due to overuse of surface and groundwater in certain regions of the basin, Great Lakes communities are beginning to struggle to replace water supply for drinking water, agriculture, and other critical uses; and
- WHEREAS,** communities and states in the basin lack consistent access to technologies and data to fully comprehend the vulnerabilities of large withdrawals. Further, in many cases the region lacks comprehensive hydrological studies necessary to identify long-term, sustainable uses and/or to calculate impacts of multiple large-scale withdrawals in one aquifer; and
- WHEREAS,** water capture and groundwater recharge in aquifers is an emerging practice requiring ongoing study to support implementation; and
- WHEREAS,** it is critical to understand and appreciate the impact of large withdrawals on local ecosystems and basin-wide water resources before permits are granted and facilities built; and now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the members of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) do hereby express interest in collaborating with the Compact Council on discussing proper standards for partially consumptive industrial water withdrawals; and be it further,
- RESOLVED,** that the GLLC form a standing Water Use Committee to study and make recommendations related to large water withdrawals from surface water and groundwater, such as hyperscale data centers; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the GLLC seek expertise to recommend best practices in technology for local and Indigenous governments and Great Lakes basin states and provinces to advance improved regulation of and permitting for large-scale water withdrawals.

Approved at the GLLC Annual Meeting on September 10, 2024