

**Intergovernmental Accord
between
the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in Michigan
and
the Governor of the State of Michigan
Concerning Protection of Shared Water Resources**

**Entered into on May 12, 2004
Lansing, Michigan**

Whereas the federally recognized Indian Tribes in Michigan and the Governor of the state of Michigan each recognize the essential role of the Great Lakes and of Michigan's inland lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater (hereinafter termed "water resources") in their past, their present, and their shared destiny;

Whereas the Tribes historically resided in the Great Lakes Region in harmony with the natural environment since well before the arrival of Europeans and have depended upon the water resources of the Great Lakes Region for food, water, and transportation for hundreds of years;

Whereas the Great Lakes and Michigan's inland lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater remain the cornerstone of the culture and the physical and spiritual well-being of the Tribes and preserving the environmental quality and quantity of those water resources for the present and for the next seven generations is absolutely essential to the Tribes;

Whereas the Great Lakes and inland waters are the state of Michigan's most vital resources and figuratively and literally define the state; the citizens of the state rely on these water resources for their subsistence, health, recreation, and for their aesthetic value; and those water resources also underpin Michigan's economy due to their importance for tourism, agriculture, industry, and transportation;

Whereas the future well-being of all of the residents of the state of Michigan depends on the preservation and enhancement of the quality and quantity of its water resources;

Whereas Michigan's water resources are subject to degradation from numerous sources including toxic substances such as pesticides, mercury and other heavy metals from a variety of agricultural, industrial and municipal sources; and the introduction of exotic species such as lamprey and zebra mussels strain the Great Lakes ecosystem;

Whereas the very presence of the water is imminently threatened by the desire of governments and private companies to divert or export Great Lakes waters outside the Great Lakes basin;

Whereas many activities such as dredging, wetland development, and inadequate wastewater treatment strain the natural recuperative powers of the water resources to maintain diverse ecosystems which depend on water quality and quantity for their very existence;

Whereas past, present and future utilization of water resources by governmental units and private individuals and entities is subject to oversight and regulation under a complex framework of federal, state and tribal law;

Whereas the grandeur and beauty of the Great Lakes create a facade of endless abundance but the Great Lakes and inland waters are in reality delicate and finite;

Whereas protection of these magnificent resources for the present and future generations requires the constant commitment, vigilance, and cooperation of all governments that have jurisdiction over them;

Whereas the undersigned parties wish to enhance and strengthen the government-to-government relationship among the Tribes and between the Tribes and the state of Michigan;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governor and the undersigned Tribes affirm their joint commitment to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the Great Lakes ecosystem and pledge to work together to clean-up the pollutants now present, eliminate exotic species, maintain and preserve diverse water resource habitats, and prevent future contaminants, exotics and depletion of these waters. They further commit to sending representatives to meet at least twice a year to review the quantity and quality of our water resources and to develop strategies for protecting those resources including recommendations for state, federal and tribal legislation, and international treaties, coordination of permitting activities, and cooperation on enforcement of water protection laws.

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Jeffrey D. Parker, President
Bay Mills Indian Community

Robert Kewaygoshkum, Tribal Chairman
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and
Chippewa Indians

Kenneth Meshigaud, Chairperson
Hannahville Indian Community

William E. Emery, Tribal Council President
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

Richard McGeshick, Sr., Tribal Chairman
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Lee Sprague, Ogema
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Frank Ettawageshik, Tribal Chairman
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

David K. Sprague, Tribal Chairman
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of
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Laura Spurr, Tribal Chairman
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians

John Miller, Tribal Chairman
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

Audrey Falcon, Tribal Chief
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Bernard Bouschor, Tribal Chairman
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
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