UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 17 2006

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Roy Prescott, Chair
Jerome, ID
Julie Raque Adams
Louisville, KY
Clarence Brown
Cartersville, GA
Stephen C. Downs
Salem, OR
John Duffy
Palmer, AK
Kenneth W. Fallows
Haskins, OH
Ivan Fende
Marquette, MI
James L. Gitz
Freeport, IL
Jerry R. Griffin
Atlanta, GA
Whitney Hatch
Boston, MA
Elam Herr
Enola, PA
Lurlin Hoelscher
Williams, IA
Paula Hertwig Hopkins
Columbia, MO
Steve Jenkins
Coalville, UT
Randy Johnson
Minneapolis, MN
Jerry Johnston
Braman, OK
Jimmy W. Kemp
Newton, MS
Mike Linder
Lincoln, NE
Karen L Martynick
West Chester, PA
John H. Muller
Half Moon Bay, CA
Joe J. Palacioz
Hutchinson, KS
Jodi Perras
Indianapolis,IN
Bruce Tobey
Gloucester, MA
Barbara Sheen Todd
Clearwater, FL
Melanie A. Worley
Castle Rock, CO

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington D.C. 20460

Re: Great Lakes

Dear Administrator Johnson:

On behalf of the Local Government Advisory Committee, we strongly believe in EPA's efforts to consult with local governments on a continuing basis as part of EPA's normal collaborative processes. From our discussions with you last year, we know that you are committed to working with local elected officials because of the critical role we play in providing environmental services.

We want to bring to your attention the need for an institutional mechanism to acquire full local government cooperation to make the implementation of the "Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy" a robust effort. In particular, because the vast majority of land adjacent to the Lakes resides within the jurisdiction of small communities, this institutional mechanism needs to have numerous elected officials from such communities. Furthermore, these units of local government will be critical to the success of the Strategy, and thereby to the success of saving the Great Lakes.

The key advantages of this recommended mechanism are: (1) implementation proposals and cost-estimates will receive practical ground-truthing prior to roll-out to the public; (2) real local case-study examples will be made available in a timely manner; and (3) communication with local elected officials of draft and final policies and cost-estimates will be better executed. On this latter advantage, we strongly believe that local officials are the best advocates for policies affecting local governments and thereby early involvement will lead to sustained support.

Recycled/Recyclable • Printed with Vegetable Oil Based Inks on 100% Recycled Paper (40% Postconsumer)

We look forward to you creating the institutional mechanism we recommend and to your reply to this letter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Jenkins at (435) 336-3286 or myself at (208) 280-2163.

Sincerely,

Roy Prescott
Chairman

Steve Jenkins
Chairman
Small Community Advisory Subcommittee

cc: Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
Bharat Mathur, Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5
Norm Niedergang, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 5
Gary Gulezian, Director, Great Lakes National Program Office