

June 17, 2019

Via email

United States GLEC Secretariat
Great Lakes National Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: glwqa@epa.gov

Canadian GLEC Secretariat
Great Lakes Environment Office
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Email: ec.aqegl-glwqa.ec@canada.ca

Re: Great Lakes Public Forum – we wish we were there!

As you begin the Great Lakes Public Forum in Milwaukee, the undersigned Canadian organizations are writing to let you know that even though we cannot be there in person, we are deeply interested in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes – St Lawrence ecosystem.

We look forward to hearing more about the state of the Great Lakes, the progress that has been made in the past three years under the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Protocol, and the proposed priorities for the next three years. Even though we are not able to be there in person, we expect that the United States and Canada will seek to engage the interested public in discussions about these matters.

One significant challenge to our meaningful engagement is the failure to release the parties' progress report and the summary of the state of the lakes report well in advance (eg, at least one month) of the Forum – as promised by the parties. Having the reports at least a month in advance would allow time for us to review and prepare questions for a more engaging discussion. Without being able to review these reports well in advance of the meeting, it is impossible to provide serious input to the governments at the Forum. As such, the Forum would not be a good use of our already overextended time.

We look forward to further engagement opportunities. Although, at the present time capacity for Canadians to travel is limited, we intend to engage wherever we can in the coming months.

Sincerely,



**Canadian
Environmental Law
Association**
EQUITY. JUSTICE. HEALTH.

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Special Projects Counsel, Healthy Great Lakes
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**environmental
defence**
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