

June 25, 2013

Dear Friend/Colleague:

For 30 years Great Lakes United has been one of the region's strongest bi-national advocates for protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Great Lakes United's work over the years has led to broader awareness of the threats facing the Great Lakes. In turn, this awareness has led other committed activists to form new networks and organizations that are broadening and strengthening our region's capacity to protect the Lakes.

In recent years, this evolving landscape and a difficult financial climate have presented challenges to Great Lakes United that have become increasingly difficult to weather. As a result, the Great Lakes United Board of Directors has chosen to close down the organization's operations in both Canada and the United States. Great Lakes United will cease operations as of July 1, 2013.

We are proud of Great Lakes United's many accomplishments over the past 30 years. Great Lakes United's advocacy and coalition leadership was a significant part of many of the major Great Lakes protection victories over the past several decades. We are proud that our staff has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure a bright future for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River for generations to come. From preventing large-scale diversions of Great Lakes water to other parts of the world, to closing the door on aquatic invasive species, to developing innovative partnerships focused on creative urban water conservation solutions, Great Lakes United's legacy is a positive one.

It was an incredibly difficult decision to close down Great Lakes United but we are buoyed by the knowledge that the Great Lakes region is home to many organizations that will carry on Great Lakes United's work. Our Board Members and staff will continue to direct their energy and resources to new organizations in pursuit of Great Lakes United's mission – protecting the health of one of the world's most magnificent waterways, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Ashe
Acting Executive Director