

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUPERFUND DESIGNATION FOR THE LOWER FOX RIVER**

WHEREAS the sediments of the Lower Fox River in Northeast Wisconsin are contaminated with approximately 90,000 pounds of PCBs and other persistent toxins from wastewater discharges from the recycling of carbonless copy paper, from 1957 to 1990.

WHEREAS the PCBs flow from the Lower Fox River into Green Bay and Lake Michigan at a rate of about 600 pounds per year — up to 70% of all PCBs reaching Lake Michigan.

WHEREAS the PCBs also volatilize into the air off the surface of the Lower Fox River, Bay and Lake at a rate of up to 4,000 pounds per year, creating a regional air pollution source of PCBs.

WHEREAS the Green Bay area has some of the highest rates of wildlife deformity, cancer and reproductive failure in the Great Lakes region. Many species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects and even zooplankton have been adversely impacted by the contamination.

WHEREAS the contaminated sediments are also the prime cause of local warnings against consumption of fish and ducks, and closure of valuable commercial fisheries and charter boat businesses.

WHEREAS the local human health costs of this contamination remain virtually unstudied, unquantified and unaddressed, while statistical health risks have remained high for decades. For example, anglers face up to a 1 in 250 cancer risk from eating modest quantities of fish from segments of the River and lower Bay.

WHEREAS the Lower Fox River clean-up is an Environmental Justice issue because the adverse health risks are borne primarily by lower income residents who need fish for subsistence, and for certain ethnic groups and Native Americans who have strong traditional values which include fishing and fish consumption.

WHEREAS the contaminated sediments have caused extensive economic damage. Maintenance of the shipping channel in the Green Bay Harbor and other boating marinas is extremely expensive because of special dredging and disposal needs for contaminated sediments. Waterfront property values have been suppressed for years. Green Bay area drinking water supplies must be pumped in from Lake Michigan, at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars, because the Lower Fox River and Bay are too contaminated. Swimming beaches have been closed and other recreational investments have also been suppressed. Local quality of life has been damaged.

WHEREAS the clean-up of these sediments is urgently needed now to address these concerns. We cannot afford to wait another decade. PCB releases could increase dramatically if a major storm were to scour PCB hotspots from the river and move the PCBs downstream into the Bay, where they become irretrievable.

WHEREAS the voluntary, cooperative approach has failed after 12 years of official State of Wisconsin efforts and after local committee efforts of the Remedial Action Plan and the Fox River Coalition to clean-up the Lower Fox River, even though the Potentially Responsible Parties (local paper recycling companies) have been leading participants on all these committees. More than \$20 million has been spent studying the river and bay system, and potential clean-up methods.

WHEREAS the paper industry has launched an aggressive public relations campaign against Lower Fox River clean-up, downplaying the health risks of PCBs, which indicates their reluctance to continue pursuing the voluntary approach.

WHEREAS the Superfund program would provide the start-up money and legal enforcement process to begin actual clean-up of the Fox River and hold the polluters accountable for the costs.

THEREFORE Great Lakes United urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to place the Lower Fox River on the National Priorities List for Superfund, and to develop and implement clean-up plans promptly.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE 16TH ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON JUNE 7, 1998.

  
TIM BROWN, SECRETARY