

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

# Basham Press Release

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## **Senator Basham, Colleagues Reach Resolution on Great Lakes Protection, Pass Compact**

*Michigan Passes Strongest Agreement Yet to Implement Science, Prevent Water Withdrawals*

LANSING—This morning, Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) and his colleagues on the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Great Lakes and Environmental Affairs Committee reached a compromise to protect our water and passed the Great Lakes Compact. The agreement bans major water diversions and increases oversight of large quantity withdrawers.

“We came together today not as Democrats and Republicans or Senators and Representatives, but as stewards of our land and water, and we worked together to protect our Great Lakes for generations to come,” said Sen. Basham. “While we may have taken longer to pass the Compact than our regional counterparts, we were thorough on behalf of the Great Lakes State and its people and have enacted the most scientifically sophisticated water protection of any state.”

The legislation unveiled in today’s agreement preserved the following core protections for the Great Lakes:

- Enacts the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact.
- Bans significant diversions from Michigan waters and the Great Lakes.
- Establishes a regulatory standard which provides oversight of large quantity withdrawals and permitting for the largest water users to ensure water withdrawals, from both surface and groundwater, do not cause an adverse resource impact.
- Contains special additional protections for thermally-sensitive trout streams.
- Reaffirms our rights as citizens to seek redress if our rights to our waters are harmed, and reaffirms the state's role in protecting those waters.

Sen. Basham’s bill in the new package, SB 727, increases the regulatory oversight of water bottlers by strengthening the permit threshold. Under the bill, bottlers pumping more than 200,000 gallons per day will be subject to the new water rules. Basham’s legislation also allows for public involvement in the permit process for each withdrawal over 200,000 gallons per day.

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