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**Statement of Clean Water Action Michigan Director Cyndi Roper
On Today's Michigan Senate Vote on Water Withdrawal Bills**

"Clean Water Action is extremely disappointed that the Michigan Senate, along a mostly party line vote, passed a bill package today opposed by more than 60 Michigan civic organizations that opens Michigan's most treasured rivers and streams to large-scale water withdrawals and export.

Clearly the Senate's action today shows the majority simply doesn't realize that our lakes, rivers and aquifers—our drinking water sources—are all connected in the Great Lakes system. Or maybe they care more about corporate lobbyists who want to profit from our waters without any meaningful restrictions that protect the public's resource.

Our members have written more than 28,000 letters in support of strong measures to protect our waters. The task of protecting Michigan's waters and our economic future now rests with the Michigan House and we are hopeful that a majority of representatives will support the package of bills sent to the floor by the House Great Lakes and Environment Committee. These are the folks who must answer to voters this year and we know the public wants them to protect our waters and not the lobbyists.

Although a 19-18 Senate majority favored extending public trust protections to all of Michigan's waters, under Senate rules the measure failed because it did not garner the 20 votes needed for passage. This was extremely disappointing because ensuring all of our waters are under public trust protections is what we need in this era of water shortages and increasing international demands for water.

The Senate bill package not only falls far short of what Michigan needs to protect its most precious resource—its Great Lakes water system—but the Senate measures do not even require a permit for large-scale withdrawals of up to 25 percent of portions of our rivers and streams.

Under the bill package passed today on a 24-14 vote, the bottled water industry would be required to seek a permit if it withdrew 200,000 gallons of water a day or more, but the permit threshold for all other users would be 2 million gallons a day. The Senate bills also rejected meaningful public comment on water projects, and on a 19-19 vote failed to lower water withdrawal thresholds from trout streams to 13 percent of a stream's flow.