Submitted: Sally Howard - April 3, 2026
FMCE is calling for stronger implementation of GLWQA TAP

Re: Canadian and US governments latest Progress Report under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) (Sent April 3; Due April 3, 2026)

As advocates for water quality and ecosystem integrity in the Great Lakes since 1988, the Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists from the Rochester, NY area endorses the accompanying letter from the Great Lakes Ecoregion Network (GLEN).

We especially support these important and positive recommendations by the members of GLEN:

- Provide more meaningful, robust public engagement opportunities.
- PFAS, and radionuclides, as well as the anticipated increase of population, development and energy production in the Great Lakes Basin, need much more in-depth documentation and study of potential impacts, and more collaborative action.
- Source water protection is the key to all sustainable use and benefits of the Great Lakes, and must be high priority and get more measurement, study and attention, even more so than the analysis and reporting on drinking water quality coming out of treatment plants.
- Coastal wetlands provide key protection from flooding and vital balance to the Great Lakes ecosystem, and must be a high priority for more measurement, study and attention.

To prevent expensive future problems, we call on you to take the lead on encouraging a strong, trans-boundary partnership to proactively assess and plan for resiliency and cooperation in the Great Lakes Basin.

Respectfully, Sally Howard and Carol Hinkelman, On Behalf of the Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists (FMCE)

FMCE is endorsing the letter from GLEN dated February 3, 2026, that begins with:

RE: February 4 and 5 2026 Public Forum, comments on PROP and SOGL
From: Great Lakes Ecoregion Network From: Great Lakes Ecoregion Network The Great Lakes Ecoregion Network (GLEN) wishes to express its regret that the Parties were unable to produce timelier, more thorough, and/or actionable reports on the status of Parties progress under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) and the state of the health of the Great Lakes.

We realize that U.S. federal agencies are under considerable strain from staffing cuts, budget cuts, and the cessation of many science programs, There also have been, and continue to be, losses of federal staff in Canada, although not to such a significant degree as in the United States. This situation places constraints on the capacity of public agencies.

Still, it goes without saying (but it seems that it must be said) that meaningful public engagement on either report would have benefited from more than a few weeks opportunity to review and consider the reports prior to the triennial public forum. In December 2024, the Great Lakes Executive Committee promised to publish these reports in July of 2025. The Parties seem to have lost capacity for seriously engaging the wide and diverse Great Lakes community concerned about the health and future of the Great Lakes.