

# OPINION

Thursday, October 27, 2005

NEWS TIP LINE (231) 933-1472

## YOUR VIEWS

### Water diversion

Your editorial of Oct. 19, "Words carry weight in Great Lakes debate," does a great service raising the

issue of water privatization and diversion, before it is too late to avoid serious environmental harm and drawn-out legal issues.

We who do look to the future for ourselves and future generations see the key issue as whether Michigan will lose regulatory control of its most important public natural resource — water.

The National Wildlife Federation does not speak for the entire environmental community. Red flags were raised when many environmental groups read the agreement that came out of the Federation and Council of Great Lakes Industries meeting calling for bottled water to be classified as a

product and not a diversion.

What will Michigan have left of its precious Great Lakes water when diversions in tankers, pipelines and trucks leave Michigan? How can bottled water in individual bottles less than 5.7 gallons not be classified a diversion? It doesn't take many trucks of bottled water leaving Michigan to become a huge diversion.

Is the state of Michigan ready to give its water to companies that can privatize it for their own profit? I for one do not want to see this happen.

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*The writer is president of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation*