



September 18, 2009

Dear Friend of the Great Lakes,

You are cordially invited to the fourth annual New York Healing Our Waters Coalition conference – *Uniting New York's Great Lakes Communities to Restore our Freshwater Coast* on **Saturday, October 24**, at **Hyatt Regency Hotel** in Buffalo, NY.

The Great Lakes are essential to the economic and cultural identity of our region. Forty-two million people depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water. While the health of our Lakes continues to be seriously threatened by aquatic invasive species, sewer overflows and run-off pollution, legacy of toxic contamination, habitat loss and climate change; we have an unprecedented opportunity to advance the manageable solutions to these problems.

The passage of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and positive movement on President Obama's \$475 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative testify to the power of our collective action. The conference is an opportunity to further collaboration as we work to restore Great Lakes water quality using the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and to responsibly manage our Great Lakes water resources by implementing the Compact. Join citizens, scientists, regulators, policymakers, academics, business people and activists to work together to achieve our common goal of healthy lakes, healthy lives.

The 4th Annual New York State Healing Our Waters Coalition Conference will provide many opportunities to network with other organizations and individuals working to advance Great Lakes restoration throughout the Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and St. Lawrence River watersheds. Sessions will update participants on the exciting federal legislative initiatives moving in Washington D.C. and in-depth science and policy breakout sessions on:

- Implementing the Great Lakes Compact in New York;
- Improving near shore water quality;
- Preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species;
- NYS water conservation opportunities for the Great Lakes; and
- Implementing ecosystem-based management for NY's Great Lakes

We hope you can join us **Saturday, October 24, 2009 8:30-4 p.m.** As usual, conference registration is free, but required. Please register at www.citizenscampaign.org/glconference.

Co-Sponsored by:



Great Lakes United



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