

## **Resolution on the proliferation of industrial livestock operations, such as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations**

**Whereas** industrial livestock operations issues include manure handling; animal welfare; antibiotic and hormone use; the impact on local roads, economics, residents and residential properties; and the effects on air and water quality; and,

**Whereas** industrial livestock operations are a regional concern, because of their increasing numbers and the enormous amount of manure generated in a small geographic area. In addition, industrial livestock operations with very large numbers of animals in confinement buildings may produce toxic levels of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, methane, and dust; and,

**Whereas** industrial livestock operations routinely use large quantities of human antibiotics, leading to the development of antibiotic resistant diseases; and,

**Whereas** operators of industrial livestock operations tend to build their facilities just under the regulatory size limit, thereby avoiding permitting processes that provide for public review and comment; and,

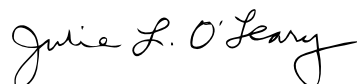
**Whereas** while wastewater from humans requires primary, secondary and sometimes tertiary treatment before discharge into our waterways, some mega-farms use a water-based manure-handling system to collect animal wastes in an open-air lagoon while others collect the waste in a solid form. In both cases, the untreated manure is spread onto area fields – including frozen and snow covered ground, flood plains, and saturated fields – where it can run off, causing stream pollution and fish kills.

**Therefore be it resolved** that Great Lakes United supports a precautionary moratorium on all new or expanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) that produce untreated animal waste; and,

**Therefore be it further resolved** that Great Lakes United supports:

- The improvement and similar wastewater transportation, delivery, and treatment systems on each CAFO site within the Great Lakes watershed, at least as stringent as the U.S. federal or Canadian provincial water quality mandates and standards required of municipalities producing the same volume of human waste; and,
- These improvements should apply to all medium and large livestock operations; and,
- That safe nutrient management practices and disposal of sludge should be included in the requirements in order to maintain adequate water quality standards in ground and surface waters.

**I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of Great Lakes United on May 20, 2009.**



Julie O'Leary, President