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## Rogers said White House not considering Great Lakes water diversion

**The Associated Press**  
7/27/01

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Rep. Mike Rogers said Thursday that the White House has assured him President Bush is not considering sending Great Lakes water to dry western states.

Michigan lawmakers have been concerned that Bush may allow Canada to pipe water from the Great Lakes as part of a possible North American water pact.

A Canadian reporter asked Bush last week whether he would be open to such a pact. Bush said he would be open to discussions about sending water from Canada to the western states through abandoned energy pipelines.

Bush never mentioned the Great Lakes. But Rogers, R-Mich., and Michigan Democratic Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow wrote to Bush, saying that such a pact could lead to withdrawal of water from the Great Lakes, which already are at historically low levels.

Rogers went to the White House on Thursday to discuss the issue with John Connaughton, who advises Bush on environmental issues. After the meeting, he said Connaughton told him the White House has no policy regarding potential diversion of Great Lakes water.

"He said the president's comments to reporters were in no way directed at the Great Lakes but were based on his own personal experience in Texas where, as governor, he was involved in a water compact with Mexico," Rogers said.

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