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## Senate task force unveils Great Lakes agenda

January 16, 2002, 10:59 AM

LANSING, Mich. (AP) -- A thick proposal designed to improve and protect waters in the Great Lakes was unveiled Wednesday by a state Senate task force.

Members of the task force were quick to say the proposed protection plan has bipartisan support and will be quickly taken up by the Senate. The new plan is a product of a task force named by top Senate Republicans, but Democrats also endorsed its recommendations.

The cooling state economy will make it difficult to implement recommendations that cost additional money, said Senate Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee Chairman Ken Sikkema, R-Grandville. But many of the recommendations will not cost more, he added.

The report focuses on 17 issues and sets forth 66 recommendations.

They include a new water withdrawal law; tougher sewage overflow regulations; a continued moratorium on drilling for oil and natural gas under the Great Lakes; improved land use laws; a review of how water permits are issued; improved animal feedlot regulations; and reductions in toxic air emissions, which find their way into the lakes.

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On the Net:

Michigan Senate Republicans,  
<http://www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/index.html>

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Michigan Department of Environmental  
Quality, <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/>

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