

Lakes states should join forces

A Detroit Edison official says the Great Lakes region lags behind other sections of the country — notably the South and West — in joining forces to fight for more business and improve the well-being of its citizens.

"The Great Lakes region competes with other areas of the country," said Walter J. McCarthy Jr., board chairman and chief executive officer of Detroit Edison Co., "not just for industry and talent, but for federal funds as well, and we're coming out far behind our rivals in the Sunbelt and the West in that regard."

Speaking to a Minneapolis service club, McCarthy urged six states — Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio — to pool their intellectual and other resources to help plan a brighter future for the Great Lakes region.

McCarthy offered to host a meeting to explore the possibility of united action on managerial and economic fronts, including a unique role for major state universities in the Great Lakes area.

WHEREAS THE South and West get back \$1.10 and \$1.06 in federal funding, respectively, for every tax dollar they send to Washington, the Great Lakes region gets back just 79 cents, said McCarthy.

He added that Michigan fares more poorly than all of the other 49 states, with a return of only 68 cents on the dollar.

Recall Blanchard rally is June 23

A rally sponsored by the Recall Governor Blanchard/Roll Back Taxes Committee is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. June 23 at the West Bloomfield Township Library.

Oakland headquarters for the recall campaign is at 159 Pierce at the corner of Maple in Birmingham.

Recall workers may be reached at 540-0982 daily.

"Should we continue to accept such second-class treatment?" he asked. "The balance should swing the other way. Our Great Lakes region suffers at this time more than any other area in the nation. Our economy is the most depressed. We were the first to suffer in the prolonged recession, and many analysts predict we will be the last to recover."

McCarthy said he believes the ultimate solution lies in long-range strategic planning on a regional basis. He added:

"If the Great Lakes region as a whole does not develop some standard, workable plan to improve its present socio-economic climate, and chart a long-range course for its collective future, then no single state within our region will flourish at its former high level.

"I BELIEVE we're at a stage of development where we need to give strong consideration to regional progress, instead of limiting our attention to the isolated needs of our individual states.

"I would like to see us bring together the region's best thinkers — in business, education, agriculture, labor union affairs, government — to explore the possibility of pooling our intellectual and other resources in a search for common solutions to common problems on a regional basis.

McCarthy said he could envision state universities playing a major role — "perhaps specializing in areas where they have particular strengths.

"Your own great University of Minnesota might focus on agriculture," he said. "The University of Michigan, and Wayne State University, in Detroit, could concentrate on manufacturing. The University of Illinois might study the problems of public education. Most of the educators with whom we have discussed this approach have been highly enthusiastic, which is encouraging."

McCarthy SAID he was "heartened" to see the governors of the six Great Lakes states he proposes pool their resources and form the Council of Great Lakes Governors in Cleveland last month "to work cooperatively on regional problems." He also said he is aware that numerous other Great Lakes organizations are tackling specific problems in the region.

"As worthy as the work of all (these) groups is," McCarthy said, "and as valuable as our governors' imprint on some of it may be, it all cries for widespread coordination — for participation by represent-

atives from all sectors of our economic and social structures.

"Together, I believe, we could pinpoint the many problems which impede us, which make our future unclear. Our minds could collectively develop ways to overcome those problems — not just to tolerate, or apply splints, or poke fingers in dikes, but to ensure sound development and improvement of the entire Great Lakes region for the long term.

"We could agree on ways to halt the outflow of our industry, and ultimately reverse that trend; to bring our schools up to not just acceptable standards, but exemplary standards; to make our families economically viable and healthy; to make our streets safer, our air cleaner, our water purer, and our hearts stronger and prouder to be part of this mighty region encompassing most of the Great Lakes area."

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Former legislator Tamboulian garners conservation kudos

State Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, was chosen Legislative Conservationist of the Year by the Michigan United Conservation Club.

Faust was selected for the award for sponsoring Michigan's tough new law to control strip mining for coal. Former state Rep. Alice Tamboulian, D-Rochester, will receive a special conservation award for her

achievements in the Legislature.

Both awards will be given during the 46th annual convention of the MUCC on Saturday, June 25, in Escanaba.

Gov. James Blanchard is scheduled to address the three-day convention, June 23-25, along with Attorney General Frank Kelley and several other state officials.



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