

For Immediate Release

ATT: News Editor

Contact: M'Lynn Hartwell 231.943.5050; Ryan Jonna (248) 202-1519

Date: September 9, 2002

Water Activist Maude Barlow to Speak in Mount Pleasant

September 12, 2002 at 4:30 p.m. in Mount Pleasant (Central Michigan University Center Auditorium) <http://www.umich.edu/~aamgj/> & <http://www.WaterIsSweet.org> for more info.

An articulate and unusually intimate speaker, Maude Barlow has received outstanding reviews for her insightful, evocative and inspiring addresses to both national and international audiences.

Having recently returned from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa, Ms. Barlow will provide a global context for understanding the struggle to stop the Ice Mountain water diversion in Mecosta County, Michigan.

Ms. Barlow is a Director with the International Forum on Globalization, a network of individuals and groups from around the world working to democratize the global economy. Ms. Barlow is the author or co-author of fifteen books, including *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water*, in which she states, "There is a common assumption that the world's water supply is huge and infinite. This assumption is false. At some time in the near future, water bankruptcy will result."

She cites a United Nations study that says by the year 2025 - less than 25 years - two-thirds of the world will be "water-poor." "The wars of the future are going to be fought over water," Barlow has declared.

In a recent interview with the Northern Express, Barlow affirmed the role of local, grass-roots organizing in the campaign to reclaim democracy and restore water to the public trust. Of the activist group that has been coordinating a statewide boycott of Ice Mountain she said „To my mind, groups like Sweetwater Alliance are the visionaries. They are the ones that are seeing the problem before anyone else sees them. They the canary in the mine shaft. They are the ones people should be listening to, and also deeply grateful to.‰

Recent issues of Time Magazine, The Nation, Northern Express, National Geographic and The New York Times Now have drawn attention to the global water crisis and water privatization. Ms. Barlow will address the risks these conditions present to the Great Lakes region, in part due to „free Trade‰ agreements between the U.S. and international organizations such as the WTO, World Bank, FTAA, and NAFTA.

There is probably no issue in our lifetime which will have more impact on the Great Lakes region than attempts at water privatization by corporations, and diversion outside of the Great Lakes basin.

<http://www.umich.edu/~aamgj/> & <http://www.WaterIsSweet.org> for more info.