



# PLUMBERS

## LOCAL UNION 98

*serving Detroit since 1893*

November 15, 2022

Re: Lakeshore Global Contract with GLWA

To The Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Water Authority:

As Representatives of the Michigan Plumbing Community, we are contacting you about a recent contract the GLWA board granted to Lakeshore Global to replace existing water infrastructure at the Detroit Water and Sewage Facility in Detroit.

Since 1893, the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters have safeguarded Metro Detroit's water infrastructure. Through detailed training, apprenticeship, and licensing, we have shown that we can be trusted to maintain, repair, and replace our water infrastructure. As you all know, with recent events in Flint, and other communities, a failure to properly monitor, repair, and replace infrastructure can lead to catastrophic and long-lasting health outcomes for our residential customers.

That is why we now write you with concern about Lakeshore Global's attempts to replace GLWA-owned infrastructure at the DWSD plant. Since 1947, our organization has ensured that plumbers are licensed in accordance with *MCL 339.6* (most recently revised in 2016). This licensing requires that our master plumbers have the knowledge, ability, and work experience to competently and expertly complete this work, and that the work will be properly inspected following completion.

Currently on Lakeshore's DWSD jobsite, none of these requirements are being followed. They are using out-of-state, inexperienced, and unqualified contractors to complete the work. We have observed so-called 'training sessions' on-site, where these contractors are being taught how to do this very important work as they go. This type of work, which directly affects the water that comes out of our taps, should not be left to chance. Dire consequences could result from any misstep.

We implore the GLWA board to investigate and rebid this contract to ensure the safety of Michigan's water supply. We believe that only licensed plumbers, with the proper training and experience, should be allowed to do this important work.

Our end goal, like that of the GLWA, is to ensure the safety and protection of Michigan's water supply, and the health and safety of the state's residents. If the GLWA board refuses to act against this clear and unequivocal deficiency in repair work, we plan to bring this dire situation to the public's attention.

In Solidarity,

Carlo Castiglione  
Business Manager  
Detroit Plumbers Local 98

cc: Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
Oakland County Executive David Coulter  
Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel  
Wayne County Executive Warren Evans  
Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan

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