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Great Lakes Water Authority Government Relations Program: State and Federal

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GLWA Government Relations: State and Federal

Federal Team



Mary Beth McGowan



Jim Brandell



Andy Buczek

State Team



Tracy Winston



Dave Palsrok

GLWA Government Relations: Federal

- Relationship Building
 - Cong. Dingell meeting
 - Cong. Tlaib meeting - upcoming
 - Sen. Stabenow staff tour
 - Cong. Dingell staff/Energy and Commerce Committee
 - Cong. Stevens staff
 - Cong. Levin staff
 - Cong. Lawrence staff

GLWA Government Relations: Federal

- Issues
 - Federal funding
 - Annual Appropriations: WIFIA, SRFs
 - Create new water ratepayer assistance program
 - CARES Act flexibility/new COVID-relief
 - PFAS legislation/federal regulation
 - Federal drinking water standard
 - Federal designation as hazardous under Superfund
 - Water/wastewater utility effluent and solid waste
 - EPA Rulemakings/Updates
 - Lead and Copper Rule
 - CWA Affordability Guidance

GLWA Government Relations: Federal

- Outlook for 117th Congress
 - House Democrats retain their majority despite Republican gain. (Smallest House majority in 20 years.)
 - Republicans favored to retain narrow Senate majority, pending outcome of two Georgia Special Elections.
 - Senate expected to serve as check on Biden Administration and Democratic House of Representatives.
 - New EPW Committee Chair, Sen. Capito (WV), expected to work on PFAS legislation due to issue in her state.
 - EPA will be key to Biden regulatory agenda. (Expect more aggressive action on PFAS regulations.)

GLWA Government Relations: State

- Relationship Building
 - Governor's administration
 - EGLE
 - Policy Advisors
 - State Budget Office
 - Senate and House Representatives
 - Build relationship with members in GLWA service area
 - Identify legislative champions
 - Become an issue area expert resource
 - Identify other stakeholder allies

GLWA Government Relations: State

- Financial
 - Funding for water affordability programs
 - Insuring GLWA has access to any COVID state funds
- Water
 - Drinking water standards
 - PFAS
 - Water infrastructure/lead and copper replacement
 - Wastewater and solid waste
- GLWA specific
 - Providing police powers to GLWA personnel
- COVID-19

GLWA Government Relations: State

2021-2022 Legislative Session Big Picture

- Republican majority 58-52
- Drinking water standards expected to be on both caucus agendas.
- Water affordability funding may be difficult with shrinking state budget.
- PFAS standards will continue to be in the forefront.