

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY'S
REQUEST FOR AN APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST THE UTILITY'S EFFORTS TO
IDENTIFY, EVALUATE, AND REMOVE PFOS AND PFOA DISCHARGES**

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Authority (“GLWA”) is a regional sewer authority organized under the provisions of Michigan Public Act 233 of 1955; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, pursuant to lease agreements with the City of Detroit, GLWA began operations of the regional water and sewer systems located in southeastern and mid-Michigan; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is the largest drinking water provider in Michigan, providing water of unquestionable quality to 112 communities located throughout Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Monroe Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, and Washtenaw Counties; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is the largest wastewater treatment provider in Michigan, providing effective and efficient wastewater services to 79 Michigan Communities located within Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland Counties; and

WHEREAS, GLWA has a six member Board of Directors (“GLWA’s Board”) consisting of a representative appointed by the County Executive of Macomb County, a representative appointed by the County Executive of Oakland County, a representative appointed by the County Executive of Wayne County, two representatives appointed by the Mayor of the City of Detroit, and a representative appointed by the Governor of the State of Michigan who resides in a community served by GLWA located outside of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties; and

WHEREAS, GLWA’s Articles of Incorporation intended that GLWA’s Board be reflective of the communities served by the utility and join collaboratively to establish policy for the region, its residents, and the utility; and

WHEREAS, PFOS and PFOA are two chemical compounds from a whole family of manmade chemicals that contain a carbon and fluorine backbone known as Per- and Poly- Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These compounds came into common use in the 1950s and 1960s given their ability to resist heat, water, and oil, and have been used in hundreds of industrial processes and consumer products; and

WHEREAS, because of their strength and difficulty to break down chemical compounds such as PFOS and PFOA are known as the forever compound; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set lifetime health advisories for PFOA and PFOS, and the State of Michigan has set a water quality standard (WQS) for PFOS at 11 ng/l and a water quality-based effluent standards (WQBEL) at 8.04 ug/l for PFOA; and

WHEREAS, the presence of PFOA and PFOS currently registers as “non-detect” in GLWA’s source water; and

WHEREAS, it is important to protect that source water from introduction of PFOA and PFOS; and

WHEREAS, GLWA and the City of Detroit are co-holders of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit under which GLWA operates the Water Resource Recovery Facility where it treats and disposes of wastewater; and

WHEREAS, attendant to that NPDES permit, GLWA is engaged in a pollutant minimization and source evaluation program for PFOS and PFOA; and

WHEREAS, GLWA has identified and instituted management strategies for 52 identified significant point sources for PFOS and PFOA compounds; and

WHEREAS, the management strategies have been met with success; and

WHEREAS, GLWA has committed over \$1.3 million Dollars towards the PFOS and PFOA minimization and evaluation program; and

WHEREAS, despite the success of these efforts, GLWA is aware that in addition to unregulated domestic household discharge, there is a continued threat of the introduction of PFOS and PFOA to the sewer system through illicit discharge as well as failing or abandoned businesses (“illicit means”); and

WHEREAS, the public provider of sewer services is often left “on the hook” to identify and remediate the contaminants; and

WHEREAS, GLWA wishes to develop and expand its ability to respond, evaluate, treat, remediate, and dispose of PFOS and PFOA introduced through illicit means; and

WHEREAS, GLWA seeks consideration of an appropriation to support these efforts as a part of its pollutant minimization and source evaluation program for PFOS and PFOA; and

WHEREAS, GLWA’s Board believes that such an appropriation is consistent with the desire and needs of the communities served by GLWA,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, GLWA’s Board supports GLWA’s request for a federal appropriation to assist the utility’s efforts to expand its ability to respond, evaluate, treat, remediate, and dispose of PFOS and PFOA introduced through illicit means as a part of its pollutant minimization and source evaluation program for PFOS and PFOA.