



Macomb  
Community  
Action



March 15, 2021

Great Lakes Water Authority & Chief Executive Officer  
500 Randolph, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Detroit, MI 48202

**RE: Recommended Temporary WRAP Program Design Changes in response to COVID-19**

Dear GLWA Board of Directors and Sue McCormick:

Community Action Agencies in collaboration with America's anti-poverty network, carry out a shared promise to empower people and communities to be strong, healthy, and thriving. Through Wayne Metro's WRAP Program, The Community Action Alliance for Southeast Michigan is continuing to service Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) customers by offering financial assistance to thousands of residents in an effort to prevent water service shut offs.

WRAP continues to have a significant and positive impact on communities, however, a growing number of households have experienced significant losses in income due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has left thousands of households without income, awaiting Unemployment Insurance Assistance, struggling with rent and mortgage payments, unable to make timely utility and water payments, and maintain food security for themselves and their children.

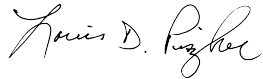
While the current moratorium prevents water shut offs, many WRAP households are unable to make monthly payments, and are disproportionately impacted due to systemic poverty. At the end of the moratorium, for a large number of households who may have larger balances on their water bill due to non-payment, adverse action during their current WRAP enrollment may negatively impact enrollment status in the future. In an effort to further assist households, **Wayne Metro recommends a temporary exception in WRAP ongoing eligibility criteria through June 30.** Wayne Metro respectfully requests that GLWA Board of Directors:

**1. To temporarily allow program participants who are unable to make monthly payments on time to remain in the WRAP Program.**

- a. Participants must demonstrate a significant loss of income or inability to make a timely payment due to COVID-19.
- b. Participants will still be eligible to receive monthly bill credits and arrears payments if applicable.

**In advocating for these temporary program changes, it is worth noting that program removal may be detrimental and therefore would not be recommended. The temporary change to the program through the end of the current moratorium and Executive Order would be beneficial to all communities, and will also benefit 955 participating families residing within Wayne County.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis D. Piszker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louis" and last name "Piszker" clearly distinguishable.

Louis D. Piszker  
Chief Executive Officer