



Board of Directors
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2025-079

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY'S
REQUEST FOR AN APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST THE UTILITY'S TOTAL
ORGANIC CARBON ENHANCED CONVENTIONAL WATER TREATMENT**

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 located in southeastern and mid-Michigan; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is the largest drinking water provider in Michigan providing water of unquestionable quality to 115 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 (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, GLWA is committed to delivering water of unquestionable quality to its member partner communities in a safe and affordable manner; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is responsible for maintaining 797 miles of drinking water transmission mains and 3 freshwater intakes within its 1,674 square mile service area; and

WHEREAS, GLWA and the member partner communities it serves recognize that infrastructure management is not only essential to water quality but is a key component of water affordability; and

WHEREAS, Total organic carbon, TOC, has been widely used to quantify and evaluate the total amount of natural organic matter and particulate carbon in environmental water; and

WHEREAS, TOC can be present in a system's water supply both through natural and man-made occurrences; and

WHEREAS, TOC is not directly associated with causing dangers to human health, but its determination and control is important because TOC is a known precursor to potentially harmful disinfection byproducts; and

WHEREAS, based on the recent increases in organic matter within the source water, water quality and regulatory concerns exist and must be evaluated to determine the best treatment techniques to continue to ensure water of unquestionable quality; and

WHEREAS, GLWA seeks consideration of an appropriation to support additional research to investigate the effects of enhanced conventional water treatment at GLWA Water Treatment Plants for improving organic matter removal in finished water and distribution waters at different climate seasons; and

WHEREAS, the 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, the Board of GLWA supports GLWA's request for a federal appropriation to assist the utility's ability to characterize seasonal effects on the natural organic matter present in the source water, optimize treatment processes for enhanced removal of organic carbon at different seasons and water quality, and examine the impact of selected treatment procedures and techniques on the water quality in the distribution network and building plumbing.