

Talking Points for GLWA Board Meeting for Speakers on 10 25 23 Mine 2

I come before you today to ask that GLWA pass a resolution urging the state legislature to pass the set of bills introduced into the house and senate regarding water affordability. They are SBs 549-554 and HBs 5088-5093.

As a member of the People's Water Board Coalition I watched and participated in progress toward water affordability over the last couple years. I have also watched many GLWA Board meetings over that time.

- So I want to begin by Thanking GLWA for a number of things. First for recognizing the needs of so many low income water customers that you revised WRAP into an affordability plan from an assistance model.
- Thank you for the meaningful participation of Nicole Bateman and Madison Myrsljakov in the work of the WRC's Water Affordability Coalition which led to the creation and adoption of WRAP IBP. And thank you for their participation in the working group with state Senator Stephanie Chang which has led to the creation of the set of bills before the state legislature now. Your board member Gary Brown also participated in some of Senator Chang's working meetings.
- What is needed now is for you to pass a resolution calling for the passage of these bills in both the Michigan Senate and the House. It will greatly benefit the low income customers of all the water utilities you serve by making their bills more affordable and on a sustained basis.
- It will greatly benefit your customers, the vast majority of the water utilities in SE Michigan because of the revenue they will receive that they weren't receiving from their customers who couldn't afford to pay it.
- GLWA has definitely played a role as a leader in the movement toward water affordability. Therefore I would expect that it supports the bills designed to expand affordability throughout the state. The bills will have a positive impact on all Michiganders who pay a water bill and all utilities who supply it, and it's sustainable! Because you are the largest water utility in the state, if you pass a resolution supporting the bills, it's a great message to the senators and representatives in Lansing about the importance of this legislation.