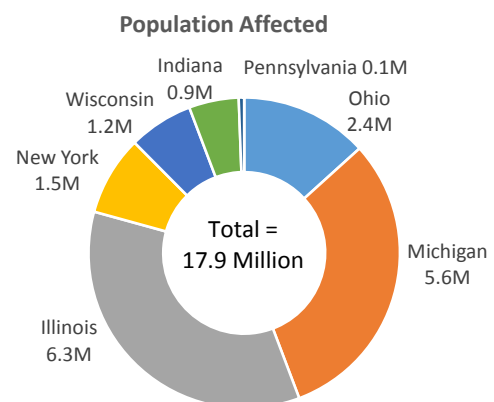
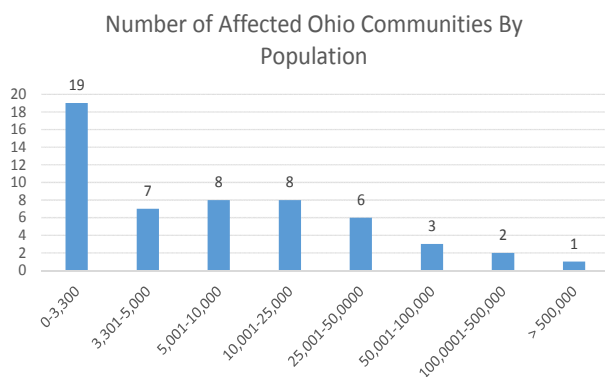
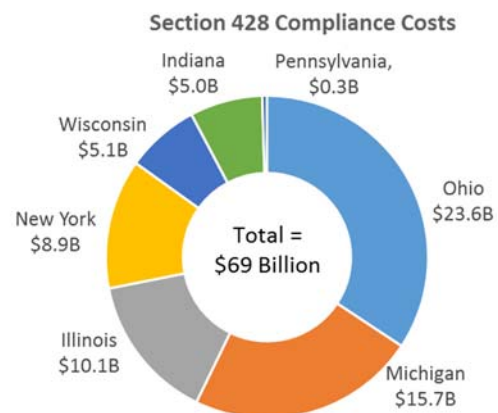
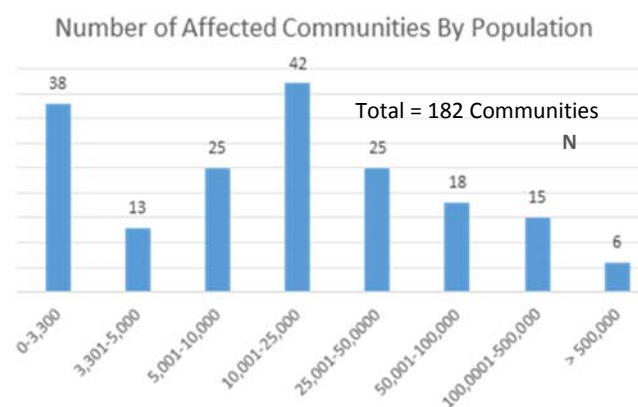


Costs and Impacts of Great Lakes CSO Appropriations Rider

Section 428 of S. 1645, the Senate's FY16 spending package for the Environmental Protection Agency, proposes to amend the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to prohibit both direct and indirect combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges to the Great Lakes. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) surveyed approximately 180 utilities that hold CSO permits within the Great Lakes Basin and based on data gathered and detailed engineering analysis, estimates compliance costs would exceed \$69 billion (plus associated costs for operations and maintenance) and result in potentially catastrophic rate increases for a region already struggling economically. Section 428 proposes one of the largest federal unfunded mandates in the history of the CWA and was inserted in an appropriations package without any hearing or debate. NACWA, representing municipal clean water utilities throughout the country, strongly urges Congress to strip this language from any final spending package.

If section 428 is enacted, ratepayers throughout the Great Lakes region would be hit hard. For example, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) serving the greater Cleveland region would face a compliance cost of \$16.5 billion and its residential and business ratepayers would pay monthly sewer bills of over \$300, a tripling of current rates. Most of the 18 million impacted ratepayers throughout the Great Lakes region would see similar monthly sewer rate hikes.



Section 428 would require communities to spend limited ratepayer resources on eliminating CSOs at the expense of other pressing Great Lakes challenges including pollution challenges due to excessive nutrients, urban stormwater run-off, and invasive species. NACWA strongly urges Congress to oppose this unprecedented unfunded mandate.

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