WRC
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER
Jim Nash

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

As the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner I am well aware of the importance of preserving and protecting our most precious natural resource – clean, fresh water. I am on the front line when it comes to protecting the Great Lakes and all of Michigan's treasured lakes, rivers and streams. That's why I am writing to add my voice objecting to the proposed regulatory changes that would negatively impact the region.

These changes, encapsulated in Section 428 of Senate Bill 1645, would divert scarce municipal resources without significant benefit to water quality.

While the supporters of Section 428 of Senate Bill 1645, and Senate Bill 1586, the Great Lakes Water Protection Act, are well intentioned, I foresee ratepayers spending an astronomical amount for very little improvement in water quality. Further, diverting limited funds actually would destroy the progress we've fought so hard to attain.

The requirements of Section 428 would force communities, already in compliance with existing policy, to completely revisit issues that do not represent significant water quality challenges to the Great Lakes. It also would curtail Michigan's ability to address some of the most serious challenges to the health of the Great Lakes, such as urban and agricultural stormwater runoff, invasive species and aging infrastructure.

For these reasons, it is imperative that you, and others representing the region, oppose Section 428 of Senate Bill 1645, and Senate Bill 1586, to preserve our communities' ability to meet the most pressing challenges facing the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

Jim Nash

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