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October 30, 2015

Senator Debbie Stabenow
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 731
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Gary Peters
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 724
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Stabenow and Peters,

I am writing to draw your attention to Section 428 of the proposed FY 2016 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This provision would have severe consequences to numerous Michigan communities that have completed Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control programs. Over 80 Michigan communities have expended over a billion dollars to implement their programs and Section 428 would render those programs obsolete.

The CSO control programs were developed to comply with the Michigan CSO Control Policy and the US EPA CSO Control Policy. These policies have been subjected to public and Congressional scrutiny and have been accepted as both environmentally sound and financially implementable. Section 428 would void these policies without any evidence that additional environmental protections are needed and without any evidence that the provisions are financially feasible. Any changes to these long-standing policies should be subject to professional analysis and public input.

The wording of Section 428 is poorly constructed, but on its face would cost Michigan communities an additional \$18 billion to comply. This is untenable at a time when Michigan needs significant investment in infrastructure that will actually accomplish something. Additional environmental protections from CSOs are simply not warranted in comparison to numerous other environmental threats to the Great Lakes. See "Sustaining Michigan's Water Heritage" for the Office of the Great Lakes' recitation of 22 key priorities for the most critical and imminent issues facing Michigan's water resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Jim Minster at (517) 371-1200 for more information. Background documents are available at www.mi-wea.org/government_affairs.php

Sincerely,

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