



Chair Irwin, Majority Vice Santana, Minority Vice Chair Lindsey, and members of the Senate Housing and Human Services Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bills 549-554. It has been a privilege to work over the past seven months with the dozens of groups that were part of Senator Chang’s stakeholder process that built consensus around the water affordability bills pending before this committee. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) strongly supports this legislation, which paves the way for all Michiganders to secure safe and affordable water.

I’ve worked for many years to ensure the drinking water coming out of our taps is safe to drink and the wastewater and stormwater were cleaned up before returning to the ecosystem and our drinking water sources. However, it wasn’t until the past decade that I began working with the People’s Water Board Coalition and its partner groups to help secure safe **and** affordable water - because no one should have to choose between the two.

In 2020, for the first time, the Michigan legislature acknowledged that residents were struggling to pay their water bills when lawmakers included \$25 million in CARES Act funding in a supplemental appropriation (SB 690/PA123 2020) for a short-term water assistance initiative to help erase past due balances on customer water bills. Attached to this testimony is a document containing data I received from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) pertaining to the \$25 million grant program. In this document, I summarized the DHHS water assistance initiative data from the Michigan community water systems that applied for a share of the \$25 million in funding. If water systems in your district are missing from the list, it could be that they did not apply for funds through this program since there are roughly 1,400 community water systems in Michigan and only 144 applied for funding.

[The results of NRDC’s 2020 analysis](#) indicate that 317,631 households representing approximately 800,000 Michiganders were behind on their water bills in just these 144 water systems. Of these households, only about 37% qualified for the grant program (based on

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility). Only about 10% (144 of 1,400) of Michigan's water systems applied for funding and only roughly 37% of the households in those communities were eligible, yet the \$25 million appropriation was fully allocated within approximately two months of DHHS opening the grant process.

Thanks to the \$25 million short-term water assistance initiative appropriated by the legislature in 2020, we collected these data showing for the first time the statewide nature of Michigan's water insecurity problem.

The bills before this committee create a permanent water affordability program by making sure water bills are affordable on an on-going basis for eligible residents. Community groups, water utilities, service providers, environmental groups, and others worked hard to craft this landmark legislation that helps ensure residents can pay affordable water bills while also ensuring cities, townships, and villages throughout the state are not losing revenue that is critical to operating their water systems.

Thank you again for the opportunity submit testimony to the committee and thank you to Senator Chang and the other bill sponsors for leading this important water affordability legislative effort. If enacted, these measures would make Michigan the national leader in addressing the water affordability crisis. We strongly urge you to support these bills and to urgently move this legislation forward.

SB 690 (PA 123 of 2020) Supplemental Appropriation - \$25 Million Water Assistance
Data Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Compiled by the Natural Resources Defense Council

Water Provider	County	Total HHs in arrears	Eligible HHs	Ineligible HHs	Amount requested	Amount granted
City of Munising	Alger	786	57	729	\$13,896.56	\$13,896.56
City of Alpena	Alpena	305	68	237	\$10,289.83	\$10,289.83
Mancelona Area Water & Sewer Authority	Antrim	224	49	175	\$6,127.87	\$6,127.87
City of Hastings	Barry	246	36	210	\$8,506.64	\$8,062.14
City of Middleville	Barry	78	9	69	\$1,385.49	\$1,385.49
City of Nashville	Barry	58	11	47	\$1,925.83	\$1,925.83
City of Bay City	Bay	1,808	529	1,279	\$228,703.32	\$225,802.51
City of Benton Harbor	Berrien	2,048	1,083	965	\$232,526.94	\$232,526.94
Village of Berrien Springs	Berrien	21	4	17	\$1,202.30	\$1,202.30
City of Battle Creek	Calhoun	11,091	2,054	9,037	\$656,375.55	\$654,486.50
City of Springfield	Calhoun	193	57	136	\$6,265.16	\$6,265.16
City of Dowagiac	Cass	497	337	160	\$34,819.59	\$34,819.59
City of Sault Ste Marie	Chippewa	980	83	897	\$11,057.98	\$11,057.98
City of Clare	Clare	328	89	239	\$13,351.85	\$13,351.85
City of Harrison	Clare	64	14	50	\$1,886.43	\$1,886.43
Village of Farwell	Clare	48	11	37	\$1,589.15	\$1,589.15
City of Ovid	Clinton	82	14	68	\$1,759.41	\$1,759.41
City of St. Johns	Clinton	359	43	316	\$20,251.43	\$20,251.43
City of Iron Mountain	Dickinson	226	56	170	\$8,481.62	\$8,481.62
City of Kingsford	Dickinson	82	8	74	\$940.09	\$940.09
Village of Vermontville	Eaton	77	11	66	\$2,980.37	\$2,980.37
City of Fenton	Genesee	475	27	448	\$6,957.07	\$6,957.07
City of Burton	Genesee	1,504	313	1,191	\$101,847.92	\$101,847.92
City of Clio	Genesee	129	12	117	\$2,452.75	\$2,452.75
City of Flint	Genesee	14,260	7,221	7,039	\$1,869,272.61	\$1,869,272.61
Lakeside Mobile - Flint	Genesee	13	0	13	\$0.00	\$0.00

Water Provider	County	Total (HHs) in arrears	Eligible HHs	Ineligible HHs	Amount requested	Amount granted
Mt. Morris Charter Township	Genesee	859	232	627	\$78,680.70	\$78,680.70
City of Gladwin	Gladwin	669	81	588	\$8,217.77	\$8,217.77
City of Beaverton	Gladwin	45	11	34	\$3,168.23	\$3,168.23
Bessemer	Gogebic	177	40	137	\$12,753.19	\$12,753.19
Charter Township of Ironwood	Gogebic	27	7	20	\$3,127.12	\$3,127.12
City of Ironwood	Gogebic	250	58	192	\$18,201.99	\$18,201.99
Traverse City	Grand Traverse	903	71	832	\$7,031.79	\$7,031.79
Village of Perrinton	Gratiot	55	4	51	\$637.00	\$637.00
City of Litchfield	Hillsdale	81	15	66	\$2,175.96	\$2,175.96
Reading-Sewer	Hillsdale	235	31	204	\$9,041.10	\$8,862.01
Adams Township	Houghton	133	12	121	\$2,452.70	\$2,452.70
Charter Township of Portage	Houghton	108	10	98	\$3,518.57	\$3,518.57
Chassell Township	Houghton	69	5	64	\$229.85	\$229.85
City of Hancock	Houghton	244	24	220	\$4,032.61	\$4,032.61
MI American Water	Houghton	386	76	310	\$12,704.79	\$12,704.79
MI American Water - Village of Calumet	Houghton	30	6	24	\$465.92	\$465.92
MI American Water - Village of Hubbell	Houghton	24	3	21	\$255.11	\$255.11
MI American Water - Village of Laurium	Houghton	142	24	118	\$4,183.06	\$4,038.43
Osceola Twp - Tamarack City	Houghton	31	4	27	\$1,021.79	\$1,021.79
Osceola Twp.- Dollar Bay	Houghton	64	7	57	\$886.05	\$886.05
Village of Lake Linden	Houghton	59	13	46	\$4,370.01	\$4,370.01

Water Provider	County	Total HHs in arrears	Eligible HHs	Ineligible HHs	Amount requested	Amount granted
Lansing - Board of Water & Light	Ingham	27,267	4,958	22,309	\$958,799.92	\$956,406.60
Village of Stockbridge	Ingham	102	12	90	\$5,324.40	\$5,324.40
City of Belding	Ionia	15	0	15	\$0.00	\$0.00
Village of Lyons	Ionia	99	26	73	\$6,027.19	\$6,027.19
Village of Saranac	Ionia	4	0	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
City of Iron River	Iron	914	109	805	\$15,247.16	\$15,247.16
Village of Alpha	Iron	29	0	29	\$0.00	\$0.00
City of Mt Pleasant	Isabella	1,143	51	1,092	\$4,022.57	\$4,022.57
City of Jackson	Jackson	3,782	757	3,025	\$157,132.97	\$157,132.97
City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo	1,671	474	1,197	\$65,264.06	\$65,264.06
City of Portage	Kalamazoo	4,136	831	3,305	\$147,863.53	\$147,863.53
Grand Rapids	Kent	4,644	1,183	3,461	\$392,646.64	\$383,551.41
City of Lapeer	Lapeer	203	42	161	\$10,439.58	\$10,439.58
Village of Almont	Lapeer	49	2	47	\$545.37	\$545.37
Morenci	Lenawee	158	36	122	\$5,386.06	\$5,386.06
City of Howell	Livingston	204	23	181	\$2,968.12	\$2,968.12
Millpointe	Livingston	33	2	31	\$1,025.00	\$1,025.00
Charter Township of Harrison	Macomb	2,598	74	2,524	\$23,085.76	\$23,085.76
Charter Township of Washington	Macomb	725	9	716	\$4,788.39	\$4,788.39
Chesterfield Township	Macomb	1,545	94	1,451	\$20,008.69	\$20,008.69
City of New Baltimore	Macomb	3,074	165	2,909	\$41,928.49	\$41,928.49
City of Utica	Macomb	231	12	219	\$5,749.37	\$5,484.60
City of Roseville	Macomb	3,468	735	2,733	\$162,001.68	\$162,001.68
City of Warren - Water	Macomb	11647	2,836	8,811	\$592,685.28	\$592,685.28
Charter Township of Clinton	Macomb	4,760	506	4,254	\$196,039.67	\$196,039.67

Water Provider	County	Total HHs in arrears	Eligible HHs	Ineligible HHs	Amount requested	Amount granted
City of Sterling Heights	Macomb	3,500	444	3,056	\$110,925.59	\$110,925.59
Village of Armada	Macomb	70	5	65	\$1,573.65	\$1,573.65
City of Marquette	Marquette	155	17	138	\$7,156.89	\$7,156.89
City of Negaunee	Marquette	58	6	52	\$3,732.05	\$3,333.21
County of Marquette - Kisawyer	Marquette	284	191	93	\$37,800.08	\$37,800.08
Ely Township	Marquette	2	0	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
City of Menominee	Menominee	301	68	233	\$16,438.40	\$16,438.40
City of Midland	Midland	1,100	129	971	\$23,905.78	\$23,905.78
Ash Township	Monroe	303	27	276	\$6,496.53	\$6,496.53
Berlin Township	Monroe	137	9	128	\$3,771.42	\$3,520.69
City of Monroe	Monroe	2,303	867	1,436	\$188,243.04	\$188,243.04
South County Water - Temperance	Monroe	1,971	152	1,819	\$19,554.15	\$19,554.15
Village of Dundee	Monroe	122	11	111	\$2,642.20	\$2,642.20
Village of South Rockwood	Monroe	155	13	142	\$3,684.82	\$3,684.82
City of Muskegon	Muskegon	4,699	1,103	3,596	\$197,611.69	\$197,611.69
City of Muskegon Heights	Muskegon	1,354	108	1,246	\$23,919.53	\$23,919.53
City of Norton Shores	Muskegon	1,430	53	1,377	\$9,173.60	\$9,173.60
City of Huntington Woods	Oakland	695	6	689	\$4,028.17	\$4,028.17
City of Madison Heights	Oakland	1,597	81	1,516	\$18,187.09	\$18,187.09
Oakland WRC - Farmington Hills	Oakland	2,181	198	1,983	\$41,810.81	\$41,301.06
Oakland WRC - Ferndale	Oakland	318	82	236	\$19,350.40	\$16,775.96
Oakland WRC - Royal Oak Twp.	Oakland	3	0	3	\$0.00	\$0.00

Water Provider	County	Total HHs in arrears	Eligible HHs	Ineligible HHs	Amount requested	Amount granted
Oakland WRC - Southfield	Oakland	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Old Farm Colony (Farmington Hills)	Oakland	7	2	5	\$225.00	\$225.00
Bloomfield Township	Oakland	1,875	0	1,875	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oakland WRC - Bingham Farms	Oakland	7	0	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oakland WRC - Franklin	Oakland	94	5	89	\$577.40	\$577.40
Oakland WRC - Oakland Twp.	Oakland	18	0	18	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oakland WRC - Pontiac	Oakland	6,112	2,092	4,020	\$557,443.18	\$536,337.06
City of Rochester Hills	Oakland	9,243	311	8,932	\$109,812.37	\$98,716.82
Oakland WRC - Bloomfield Hills	Oakland	114	1	113	\$681.45	\$681.45
Oakland WRC - Rochester	Oakland	63	1	62	\$374.83	\$374.83
Oakland WRC - Rochester Hills	Oakland	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oakland WRC - Commerce Twp	Oakland	547	4	543	\$1,969.60	\$1,969.60
Oakland WRC - Keego Harbor	Oakland	119	13	106	\$4,546.17	\$3,232.96
Oakland WRC - of Northville	Oakland	23	1	22	\$42.97	\$42.97
Oakland WRC - Orchard Lake	Oakland	69	1	68	\$398.37	\$398.37
Oakland WRC - Walled Lake	Oakland	402	20	382	\$5,772.82	\$5,772.82
Oakland WRC - West Bloomfield	Oakland	7	0	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oakland WRC - White Lake Twp	Oakland	161	4	157	\$580.48	\$580.48
Oakland WRC - Wolverine Lake	Oakland	30	1	29	\$240.94	\$240.94
Shelby Village	Oceana	108	23	85	\$5,352.12	\$5,352.12

Water Provider	County	Total HHs in arrears	Eligible HHs	Ineligible HHs	Amount requested	Amount granted
Marion	Osceola	62	22	40	\$4,886.21	\$4,886.21
Reed City	Osceola	214	37	177	\$4,174.29	\$4,174.29
City of Coopersville	Ottawa	15	2	13	\$319.43	\$319.43
Bridgeport Water System	Saginaw	1,100	406	694	\$82,354.54	\$82,354.54
Buena Vista Charter Township	Saginaw	1,034	348	686	\$76,637.73	\$76,637.73
Carrollton Township	Saginaw	608	137	471	\$32,468.02	\$32,468.02
City of Saginaw	Saginaw	12,779	7,538	5,241	\$1,226,061.69	\$1,226,061.69
Village of Merrill	Saginaw	34	8	26	\$1,460.22	\$1,460.22
City of Durand	Shiawassee	287	49	238	\$10,243.34	\$10,243.34
City of Marysville	St. Clair	476	40	436	\$17,152.35	\$17,152.35
City of Port Huron	St. Clair	4,430	707	3,723	\$152,003.35	\$152,003.35
Ira Township	St. Clair	273	7	266	\$2,837.45	\$2,837.45
Kimball Township	St. Clair	390	50	340	\$10,039.09	\$10,039.09
Akron	Tuscola	23	7	16	\$831.34	\$831.34
Village of Mayville	Tuscola	56	10	46	\$2,544.80	\$2,544.80
Village of Unionville	Tuscola	17	5	12	\$1,275.19	\$1,275.19
Village of Lawton	Van Buren	112	18	94	\$2,653.97	\$2,653.97
City of Ann Arbor	Washtenaw	802	60	742	\$22,672.17	\$19,396.78
YCUA -Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority	Washtenaw	2,158	465	1,693	\$99,210.32	\$97,539.22
City of Dexter	Washtenaw	103	4	99	\$1,269.81	\$1,269.81
Village of Manchester	Washtenaw	367	10	357	\$1,570.28	\$1,570.28
Multi Lake Sewer Authority - Dexter	Washtenaw - Livingston	37	3	34	\$1,081.98	\$1,081.98
City of Trenton	Wayne	2,465	88	2,377	\$26,421.84	\$26,421.84
City of Hamtramck	Wayne	2,497	840	1,657	\$168,673.48	\$168,673.48
Highland Park	Wayne	3,462	637	2,825	\$206,597.31	\$206,597.31

Water Provider	County	Total HHs in arrears	Eligible HHs	Ineligible HHs	Amount requested	Amount granted
Dearborn	Wayne	5,433	1,139	4,294	\$431,507.23	\$424,835.09
Romulus	Wayne	4,324	676	3,648	\$160,742.30	\$160,742.30
Charter Township of Canton	Wayne	2,853	171	2,682	\$33,958.78	\$33,958.78
City of Wayne	Wayne	2,501	426	2,075	\$107,056.50	\$107,056.50
Detroit Water & Sewerage Department	Wayne	113,906	40,009	73,897	\$11,060,144.63	\$9,703,405.20
Totals		317,631	85,835	231,796	\$21,617,862.20	\$20,194,944.10