



Trump Administration 2020 Budget Proposal Jeopardizes Clean Water Mayors Concerned Over Cuts to Funding to Protect Drinking Water and the Great Lakes

(Chicago, IL) March 15, 2019 -- President Donald Trump's fiscal year 2020 budget was introduced this week and proposes cuts to funds that protect the Great Lakes and the nation's drinking water while increasing military spending. "Every American citizen in every community deserves safe and clean drinking water. Access to clean water is not a privilege. It is a fundamental human right to sustain our daily needs," stated Deputy Mayor Michelle Morin-Doyle of Québec City, and Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. "Now is not the time to be rolling back funding. As elected officials, regardless of the level of government, it is our common responsibility to invest in measures to avoid another water crisis that puts public health and safety at risk."

The President's budget cuts the US Environmental Protection Agency by 31%, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by 34% and 26% respectively, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the annual federal investment to protect and restore the Great Lakes, by 90% from \$300 to \$30 million. Investment in GLRI has resulted in action to reduce nutrients causing harmful algal blooms in the lakes, the cleanup of multiple Areas of Concern, and the restoration of critical wetlands and habitats, to name a few.

"Every dollar of GLRI that is spent has a return on investment of \$2.00-\$4.00. So we need to come together to continue, not stop, our investment of at least \$300 million in our Great Lakes. This will ensure clean water, restored waterfronts and sustainable fisheries," said John Dickert, President and CEO of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

Mayors of the Cities Initiative have long championed collaboration among all orders of government to invest in our water resources, particularly the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water to more than 40 million people in the region. A 2008 study by the Cities Initiative on local investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence found that local government invests \$15 Billion annually in efforts to protect and restore the resource. "This constant attack on our drinking water and the Great Lakes is shortsighted," stated Mayor Mike Vandersteen of Sheboygan, Vice Chair of the Cities Initiative. "Mayors are on the front lines, working to ensure our citizens have safe and clean drinking water. We need the support of government leaders to accomplish this goal."

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a coalition of more than 100 Canadian and US mayors and municipal leaders, representing over 17 million people, committed to the long term protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Visit www.glslcities.org to learn more.

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