



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE
L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayors Commission on Water Equity supports new legislation in Congress providing assistance for water utility bills

CHICAGO, May 24, 2021 – The Mayors Commission on Water Equity today announced its support for new bipartisan legislation in Congress to establish a permanent program to assist low-income households in maintaining access to clean drinking water and sanitation services.

“We applaud Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) and John Katko (R-N.Y.) for introducing [H.R. 3293](#), the “Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2021,” to create a permanent EPA program to provide grants through public utilities and states,” said Zion, III. Mayor Billy McKinney, Chair of the Mayors Commission on Water Equity. The legislation would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to create the program.

Ensuring water affordability is a key priority being addressed by the Mayors Commission on Water Equity, which the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative convened in December 2020 to develop a policy agenda to strengthen water equity for all residents, with specific focus on communities that face significant challenges in receiving clean, safe and affordable drinking water. In April the Commission submitted a suite of water equity funding priorities to Congress to include in upcoming water infrastructure legislation, including \$8 billion to create a permanent Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program.

The legislation is endorsed by the U.S. Water Alliance, the Water Environment Federation, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

About the Mayors Commission on Water Equity

The mission of the Mayors Commission on Water Equity is to advise the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative on issues, opportunities, and solutions to water equity challenges facing Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities. The Commission seeks to deepen the Cities Initiative’s understanding of the water equity issues and recommend a Mayor’s Policy Agenda

for Water Equity to strengthen water equity for all residents, with specific focus on communities that face significant challenges in receiving clean, safe and affordable drinking water.

About The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of close to 100 U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The Cities Initiative and local officials integrate environmental, economic and social agendas and sustain a resource that represents approximately 80 percent of North America’s surface freshwater supply, provides drinking water for 40 million people and is the foundation upon which a strong regional economy is based.

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