



**For Immediate Release**  
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## ***Water industry group urges support for water infrastructure budget***

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed \$120 million budget allocation for ensuring safe, clean, affordable drinking water in Michigan will help improve the water infrastructure that helps fuel Michigan's economy, says Michigan Section/American Water Works Association (MI/AWWA).

"New funding to support water infrastructure improvements is critical to Michigan's economy and to public health," says **Bonnifer Ballard**, MI/AWWA executive director. "We urge the Legislature to support the proposed funding and allow water systems and municipalities to accelerate upgrades and necessary maintenance. Some communities' water systems are close to, or beyond, 100 years old, well past their expected lifespans."

Hundreds of water main breaks occur in Michigan every year, causing costly disruptions for businesses, homes and industry. Upgrading water systems not only ensures a reliable flow of water, but also helps boost the economy. Every \$1 spent to improve infrastructure generates \$6 in economic activity.

"Investment is needed in our water treatment and distribution systems to ensure we continue to have clean and accessible water 24 hours a day, every day," Ballard explains. "Some Michigan residents have already experienced water service interruptions, either due to contamination or infrastructure failure."

Michigan Section of American Water Works Association is a vital community of nearly 1,500 water professionals in Michigan leading the advancement of water knowledge and improving the value and

quality of water in our lives. AWWA is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most important resource.

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