



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Legislative Caucus

**2020 Virtual Meetings of the  
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus**

*September 11-October 9*

**Recommending Federal Rate Relief Remedies for  
Low Income Water and Wastewater Customers Resulting from  
the COVID-19 Health Emergency**

- WHEREAS,** Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) members are keenly aware of the financial hardships and public health issues of assuring a consistent and continued supply of clean water and proper treatment of wastewater as life-dependent, essential services; and
- WHEREAS,** many utility customers are already falling behind on their utility bills and will need uniform programmatic assistance and financial help to get back on their feet following the current pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** during this crisis, if customers are unable to pay their electric and/or natural gas bills, they are unlikely to be able to pay their water and wastewater bill; and
- WHEREAS,** the GLLC recognizes the need for a LIHEAP-like water and wastewater funding assistance program, recognizing that water and wastewater services are essential for public health and safety; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the GLLC supports the creation of a low-income and emergency customer assistance program for water and wastewater services, provided by either municipal or privately owned utilities, at the federal and state levels to ensure that all households, regardless of race or income, are able to better afford water and wastewater services; and
- RESOLVED,** that the GLLC appreciates and supports efforts to increase the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (“LIHEAP”) afforded to electric and gas customers; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the GLLC acknowledges that Congress should expand funding and access to funding with consideration to all of the tens of thousands of water and wastewater systems nationwide, whether investor-owned or municipal systems; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be shared with the appropriate state and federal officials.

*Adopted on October 9, 2020.*



**MIDWEST**