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Deep Budget Cuts Leave Great Lakes Dry

Critical resources for water management are slashed

LANSING --- The House Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Appropriations Subcommittee voted to eliminate crucial funding for the Office of the Great Lakes and important surface water protection programs today. Michigan's Great Lakes and water management programs would see a total of \$700,000 cut if the budget were to be enacted.

"This is not the time to slash funding for programs that protect and sustain Michigan's most valuable natural resource," said Jack Schmitt, Political Director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. "The Great Lakes are a critical component of Michigan's economy. Ensuring they are protected for tourism, fishing and shipping is paramount for continuing the battle to rebuild Michigan's economy."

Low water levels, algae blooms, pollution and invasive species already threaten the health of Michigan's lakes and waterways. The \$500,000 in cuts to the Office of the Great Lakes could jeopardize the state's ability to partner with other Great Lakes states on important protection efforts. Further, an additional \$200,000 in cuts to surface water protection programs could result in losses of federal matching dollars.

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Michigan League of Conservation Voters is Michigan's non-partisan political voice for land, air and water. Visit our website: <http://www.michiganlcv.org>.