



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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April 14, 2022

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48089

Dear Governor Whitmer:

This letter is to request that you give serious consideration to the manner in which the Great Lakes Water Authority imposes the bad debt of one community upon the water customers of other communities, including Warren citizens.

As you know, the previous administration, but not your administration, chose to impose an unequal payment system on every community except Highland Park. While I agree with the fact that Highland Park residents deserve to have clean water service for their community even if they cannot afford that service. That action without proper authorization by all the communities was wrong.

Clearly, all residents in Michigan deserve clean water but not without proper notification to the other residents of the communities and not without a system that promotes trust in the GLWA and trust in government. This was brought to the forefront by Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller. She was concerned that residents in Warren, Macomb County and indeed the tri-communities had been paying this hidden tax without proper notification.

Today trust in government is in question more than supported. This raises questions about trust in the GLWA and by inference trust in state government.

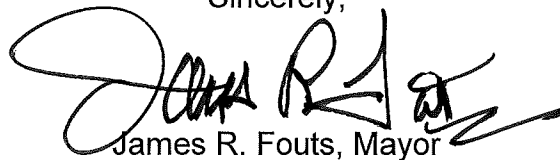
I would request that you help restore trust in not only the GLWA but also trust in our state government. A hidden tax in order to help one community without the knowledge or consent of other communities sends the wrong message to those that question our democratic values. Clearly, transparency was lacking.

I would thus ask you help to restore trust in GLWA and state government by contacting Suzanne Coffey, GLWA's interim Chief Executive Officer, on how you can assist in resolving this dispute. Perhaps, allowing all of the communities serviced by the GLWA to come up with an agreed upon proposal that would benefit Highland Park, as well as other communities who might face similar situations down the road would be a democratic way to resolve a problem that has imposed an unnecessary burden of \$11,374,300 on the tri county communities including Warren. Taxation without representation is currently a problem and that must be resolved.

With all of this in mind our city will be holding in escrow the amount of money that is proportionally paid to Highland Park by Warren until this issue is resolved.

Thank You for your consideration and dedication to the public trust!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Fouts", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

James R. Fouts, Mayor
City of Warren