Candice S. Miller
Public Works Commissioner
Macomb County

February 12, 2018

Representative Peter J. Lucido
S-885 Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Subject: House Bill No. 5406 – Water Asset Management Council

Dear Representative Lucido,

As you may know, my administration has been a major proponent of asset management for water and wastewater systems. We have developed our own asset management program to manage assets across Macomb County. We have also been involved with the Michigan Infrastructure Asset Management Pilot that is currently underway. Let me share with you some of our efforts on this matter and why we feel that House Bill No. 5406 is critical to managing state-wide systems going forward.

The Macomb County Public Works Office has implemented an asset management program which will help us better manage our capital assets while minimizing the total cost of owning and operating these assets all while delivering the required service levels to our communities. Our system consists of detailed asset inventories, operation and maintenance tasks, and long-range financial planning. The Michigan Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant was key to providing us with the financial resources to develop this program.

Over the past year we have been very proactive developing asset management strategies across our drainage districts. We have completed over 17 miles of sewer inspections and 117 miles of stormwater inspections. We have developed 20-year capital improvement plans across multiple districts so that we can provide financially stable budgets to our communities. We have started to look at solutions to eliminate partially treated sewage entering Lake St. Clair from our combined sewage overflow facilities to achieve our goal of clean water. We have also started working with local governments to merge assets so that ultimately, we can provide a better level of service to our communities at a lower cost.

Our office has also been heavily involved with the Michigan Infrastructure Asset Management Pilot Program. We have been there since the initial meetings to better define how we can start looking at everyone's system in a holistic way rather than every department working independently. We have provided all of our asset information to the team and are looking forward to the next steps of this pilot.

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House Bill No. 5406 is the logical next step in this process. The asset management council will be able to take what we have learned from the asset management pilot program and establish the path forward for managing our critical assets.

Asset management is a vital step on our path to enhancing the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams in Michigan. As we work together to reduce combined sewer overflows and point source pollutants from entering our waterways, we must have the data and the tools necessary to allow us to make informed decisions about how best to apply our limited financial resources to these challenges. We look forward to working with the State Legislature on a comprehensive infrastructure package that allows us to apply the information gleaned from the asset management project into a comprehensive infrastructure improvement plan that addresses water and sewer needs in our communities.

Sincerely,

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