MICHIGAN SENATE

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring Senator's First Name
   Kevin

2. The sponsoring Senator's Last Name
   Hertel

3. The cosponsoring Senator's names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
   None

4. Name of the spending item's recipient:
   Macomb County Public Works

5. Physical address of the recipient:
   21777 Dunham Rd Clinton Township, MI 48036

6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
   George W. Kuhn (GWK) Retention Basin - Lake St. Clair

7. Name of the Senator and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
   Kevin Hertel SD 12

8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
   Macomb County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funded a $400,000 two-year field research and sampling study of the muck or Microseira wollei - benthic cyanobacteria forming dense mats across the western basin of Lake St. Clair. The study confirmed the widespread presence and increasing dominance of the M. wollei muck that is an urgent and emerging threat to Lake St. Clair which has direct implications for Michigan's fishery, boating economy, and lakefront communities. The study recommends a three-year field trial to test scalable management techniques, including mechanical removal and targeted sediment treatments, while studying long-term effectiveness and regrowth patterns. As the county and federal partners funded the initial study and as the lake is waters of the state in addition to an asset enjoyed by all state residents, we are requesting state funding to complete the three-year field trial at a cost of $800,000. This is a modest investment compared to the economic and ecological value at stake.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item
    $800,000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? (Check all that apply)
    ["Local"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item
    Local unit of government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a presence within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization’s board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type ‘n/a.’

17. “I certify that neither the sponsoring Senator nor the sponsoring Senator's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item.”
    I certify

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item
    This is a 3 year project that is ready to begin.

19. Certification of accuracy
    I certify

April 15, 2025

State Funding - Lake St. Clair Pilot Muck Removal and Treatment Project

Brief Summary:

Macomb County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funded a $400,000 two-year field research and sampling study of the muck or *Microseira wollei* - benthic cyanobacteria forming dense mats across the western basin of Lake St. Clair. The study confirmed the widespread presence and increasing dominance of the *M. wollei* muck that is an urgent and emerging threat to Lake St. Clair which has direct implications for Michigan's fishery, boating economy, and lakefront communities.

The study recommends a three-year field trial to test scalable management techniques, including mechanical removal and targeted sediment treatments, while studying long-term effectiveness and regrowth patterns. As the county and federal partners funded the initial study and as the lake is waters of the state in addition to an asset enjoyed by all state residents, we are requesting state funding to complete the three-year field trial at a cost of $800,000. This is a modest investment compared to the economic and ecological value at stake.

Unlike more visible planktonic blooms, grows along the lakebed and displaces submerged aquatic vegetation, which is critical habitat that supports Lake St. Clair's nationally recognized sport fishery. As this benthic algae spreads, it alters the lake's ecological structure, reduces forage and cover for fish, and threatens the long-term sustainability of one of the Great Lakes' most productive warmwater fisheries.

The accumulation of *M. wollei* also affects the recreational and economic fabric of the region. Macomb County alone is home to more than 50 marinas, thousands of boat slips, and a lake-based economy that supports tourism, small businesses, and property values along the shoreline. Boaters are already encountering access issues at launch sites where algae builds up in thick mats, and continued spread could significantly disrupt recreational use in shallow nearshore waters.

In addition to its physical spread, *M. wollei* appears to benefit from nutrient conditions in the western basin, including legacy phosphorus in lakebed sediments and ongoing inputs from tributaries like the Clinton River. Elevated phosphorus concentrations, both from sediment and

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periodic combined sewer overflows, may be fueling long-term growth and highlight the importance of integrated watershed management alongside direct control measures.

We request that the State of Michigan consider providing financial support to advance this important pilot effort. With state support, this research can move quickly into on-the-ground implementation, delivering much-needed tools to protect Lake St. Clair's fishery, recreational access, and economic resilience. We appreciate the state's ongoing leadership on Great Lakes issues and hope to work together to ensure Lake St. Clair remains a vibrant and productive resource for generations to come.

Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Macomb County Public Works

Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
21777 Dunham Road Clinton Township, MI 48036

If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:

Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Senator Kevin Hertel (MI Sen. 12)

Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
Macomb County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funded a $400,000 two-year field research and sampling study of the muck or *Microseira wollei* - benthic cyanobacteria forming dense mats across the western basin of Lake St. Clair. The study confirmed the widespread presence and increasing dominance of the *M. wollei* muck that is an urgent and emerging threat to Lake St. Clair which has direct implications for Michigan's fishery, boating economy, and lakefront communities.
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The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.
$800,000

Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.
Federal
State
Local
Private
None

Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:
For-profit organization
Non-profit organization
Local unit government
University/College

For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?
Yes
No
Not applicable

For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?
Yes
No
Not applicable

1For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?
Yes
No
Not applicable

For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'
n/a

Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:
This is a 3 year project that is ready to begin.