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DuPage Water Commission Receives $500,000 Community Project Funding Award from Congressman Casten in Support of Lake Michigan Regional Water Supply Initiative

Remarks by DuPage Water Commission Chairman James F. Zay, Congressman Sean Casten, and Bryan Hacker Business Representative for Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA) Local 68

Elmhurst, Illinois – Today, the DuPage Water Commission received a $500,000 Community Project Funding (CPF) award from Congressman Sean Casten in support of the Lake Michigan Regional Water Supply Initiative.

DWC Chairman Zay Shakes Congressman Casten's Hand, Receives $500,000 CPF Award

The Lake Michigan Regional Water Supply Initiative is a landmark water infrastructure project that will establish a new water supply system serving local communities across Northeastern Illinois. The project will include the construction of a modern, state-of-the-art raw water intake and tunnel offshore in Glencoe, water purification facility in Northbrook, and purified water transmission tunnels.

The Feasibility and Comprehensive Planning phase began in 2023, and since then the initiative has achieved several important milestones, including the completion of a Feasibility Study and Comprehensive Plan, the adoption of formal partnership agreements between the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) and Northwest Suburban Municipal Joint Action Water Agency (NSMJAWA), identification of the project's raw water intake site, identification and acquisition of the project's water facility site, issuance of a Program Management Office solicitation, and significant federal investments from Congressman Krishnamoorthi and Congressman Casten.

"As our region grows, water needs evolve, and the challenges facing our water supply become increasingly complex, it is our responsibility to take a forward-looking approach, an approach that is focused on responding to the pressing needs of our residents and securing their long-term water future," **said James F. Zay, Chairman of the DuPage Water Commission.** "Congressman Casten's federal investment will play a crucial role in advancing this project from concept to construction ready."

"Having a stable, predictable, and reliable water supply is essential to supporting growth and attracting business investment in Northern Illinois," **said Congressman Sean Casten.** "I'm proud to have worked with the DuPage Water Commission to secure this federal funding for a landmark regional infrastructure project that preserves clean drinking water while increasing the stability of our electric grid."

"The Lake Michigan Water Supply Initiative is a landmark infrastructure project. At the projected size and scale, it has the potential to be one of the most significant water infrastructure investments in the Midwest and one of the largest in the country," **said Bryan Hacker, Business Representative and Recording Secretary for Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA) Local 68** "This initiative will deliver a world-class water system, create good careers, strengthen our communities, and leave the next generation with better infrastructure and greater opportunities."

The DWC, NSMJAWA, and Congressman Casten were joined at the event by state and regional elected officials, labor professional service associations, and representatives of environmental and state agencies.

For more information regarding the Lake Michigan Regional Water Supply Initiative, please visit LakeMichiganRegionalWaterSupply.org, or contact Paul May, General Manager of the DuPage Water Commission at may@dpwc.org.

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