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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pratt Helps Drive Forward Michigan Prosperity Roadmap

Ann Arbor, MI - Water Resources Commissioner Evan Pratt backs a proposal from the Coalition for a Strong and Prosperous Michigan that allocates 2.5 billion dollars of American Rescue Plan funds to address issues of sustainability and resiliency in the water sector.

The coalition's [MI Prosperity Roadmap](#) outlines a funding plan encompassing five key areas:

- Infrastructure
- Fiscal Health
- Thriving Communities
- Strong Economy
- Public Health & Safety

"I support the coalition's recommendations, particularly in the water sector. I appreciated being a part of the process that we started nearly two years ago with many other subject matter experts."-Pratt

Water infrastructure across Michigan is in desperate need of repair and replacement. Without intervention, Michigan will continue to experience infrastructure failures impacting public health, the environment, and quality of life.

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These funds would allow for improvements such as:

- **Replacement of lead pipes in drinking water systems** ensuring safe and clean drinking water for Michigan residents.
- **Clean up of contaminated properties** protecting public health and drinking water supplies.
- **Dam maintenance or removal** addressing safety while improving fish and wildlife habitat and allowing for better recreational opportunities.
- **Drainage infrastructure projects** to alleviate flooding and provide resiliency.

Pratt notes, "This package is very important. While it does not close the funding gap that has been identified by the state and many industry experts, particularly given the short and long-term impacts of increasing severe weather on our aging infrastructure, this proposal is an important step in the right direction."

Washtenaw County has seen an increased number of extreme storms and flooding in recent years. Residents have experienced three '50-year' storms this summer alone, and climate models forecast more extremes in the future.

Pratt adds, "Most people would agree that summer storms were particularly severe this year, both in rainfall severity and impact to people all over. There is more of that to come and I appreciate the work [SEMCOG](#) has done to help us understand that by mid-century, the '100-year storm' (1% chance of happening in a given year) will become the '10-year storm' (10% chance of happening in a given year). In other words, bad storms will happen much more often".

[The American Rescue Plan provides an opportunity to repair and replace aging water infrastructure, resolve public health problems, reduce environmental contamination, and provide current and future generations with resilient and sustainable systems.](#)

The mission of the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of Washtenaw County citizens and the protection of surface water and the environment and to promote the long term environmental and economic sustainability of Washtenaw County by providing storm water management, flood control, development review and water quality programs. Visit www.washtenaw.org/drains.

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Office Open Weekdays From 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.