

Dear Legan Rose:

Here's testimony from my statewide faith-based organization for the 10/26/23 meeting of the House's Natural Resources, Environment Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee. Thank you for sharing this testimony with Committee members.

The Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network is a statewide, faith-based justice network that has advocated for clean, affordable water for many years. It's a core belief of our faith that all people should be treated with respect and dignity. For too long, low-income people have not been able to afford life giving water that they need to drink, to prepare their food, to flush their toilets and bathe themselves and their children. Water is a human right.

We support the proposed package of bills (HB 5088, HB 5089, HB 5090, HB 5091, HB 5092 and HB 5093) that create and fund a statewide water affordability program. They provide shutoff protections, allow tenants to pay their water bills and establish a system that allows local utilities to be reimbursed for water they provide to their customers. With passage of these bills, access to water will become more fair, affordable and sustainable. These reforms will help protect the dignity of families that are struggling financially. They will also help protect the health of all Michigan people.

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