
Common Council President



15th District Alderman

Willie L. Hines, Jr.
City of Milwaukee Common Council

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President Hines And Alderman Murphy Praise President Obama For Budget Commitment To Great Lakes

President Barack Obama's recently released budget includes \$475 million to create a new Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, to be spearheaded by the Environmental Protection Agency. For more than a decade, the City of Milwaukee Common Council has taken an active role in putting forth legislation that protects Lake Michigan, while also working to cultivate an economic climate that can harness the potential of new fresh water technologies.

"This funding represents a new day in how our nation sees the Great Lakes," said Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. "It is often said that water is the new oil, because fresh water is increasingly scarce throughout the world. It is gratifying to see President Obama's commitment to protecting our most precious, life-giving natural resource."

Alderman Michael Murphy, who has been a longtime champion for Lake Michigan's economic potential, praised the budgetary commitment, as well. "I am grateful and pleased that President Obama clearly recognizes the immense value of clean water and the economic power that the Great Lakes have to offer," he said. "I hope this will also serve as a catalyst for the new UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Science."

Alderman Murphy sponsored a City of Milwaukee budget initiative this year creating five new Water Department intern positions. Working with private companies, such as Badger Meter, these positions will contribute to fresh water-based economic development, coming alongside existing agencies like UW-Milwaukee's Great Lakes WATER Institute.

"The Great Lakes have long been a priority for elected leaders at the local and state levels," added President Hines. "Now we have a federal administration that also recognizes their vast potential for economic growth."