



Protecting the Common Waters of the Great Lakes Basin
Through Public Trust Solutions

The Helen and William G. Milliken Fund For Love of Water

Michigan, as the only state or province located entirely within the Great Lakes watershed, occupies a unique leadership role in celebrating and safeguarding one of the world's most precious freshwater ecosystems. That leadership was exemplified and elevated by Michigan's longest-serving governor, the Honorable William G. Milliken. During Governor Milliken's tenure as the state's top elected official, Michigan led the nation in the strength and scope of its environmental laws and policies, many of them directly addressing Great Lakes water-quality issues.

When Governor Milliken passed away in October 2019, a portion of his environmental legacy was entrusted through a generous bequest to FLOW (For Love of Water), the Great Lakes Basin's only public trust law and policy center. Headquartered in Traverse City, Michigan—the late Governor's hometown—FLOW also has been chosen by the Milliken family to receive memorial tributes donated in honor of the Governor and the legacy he and his wife Helen left for the benefit of all.

FLOW is deeply honored to announce that the Milliken bequest and memorial donations—along with future gifts invited at this time—will be pooled in the newly created **Helen and William G. Milliken Fund For Love of Water**.

These resources connect FLOW to the story of Michigan's progress in embracing protective measures that safeguard the Great Lakes, and they empower the public, through FLOW, to hold government accountable and, in turn, deepen our trust in government. Governor Milliken referred to Helen as his "conscience," and her impact on his policies and legacy encompassed support for not only the environment, but also human rights. Together, the Millikens were known for promoting civic engagement in the public sphere. Reflecting these values, FLOW's **Milliken Fund** will support efforts to promote public trust rights in the Great Lakes Basin through three key programs that sustain the Milliken legacy:

- **Protecting the Great Lakes and the people who depend on them** by fueling FLOW's core programs in applying the public trust doctrine to protect against the contamination and diversion of the Great Lakes and ensure access to clean drinking water for all.
- **Inspiring community action** by funding challenges designed to inspire widespread participation, making it possible for FLOW to match individual donations in support of selected local Great Lakes projects and programs.
- **Mentoring the next generation of leaders** by underwriting internships at FLOW to foster environmental policy leadership in students and young professionals.

For many, Governor Milliken's passing has afforded the chance to reflect on the Milliken family's legacy of public service. This legacy lives on at FLOW, and grows with each additional gift to **The Helen and William G. Milliken Fund For Love of Water**.

For more information about the Milliken Fund, or to make a gift, please visit [FLOW's website](#) or contact FLOW Development Director Diane Dupuis at 231-944-1568 or Diane@FLOWforWater.org. FLOW is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit working in the public interest. Donations to the Milliken Fund are tax-deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.