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Sen. Tammy Baldwin visits Waukesha water project

WAUKESHA – Sen. Tammy Baldwin visited Waukesha today to learn more about challenges facing first responders, as well as the city's Lake Michigan water supply project.

The Senator visited the water project's Booster Pumping Station with city officials to see progress on the construction of needed infrastructure firsthand. The site includes a new water tower, as well as ground-level storage tanks that have received federal funds.

Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly said, "We greatly appreciate the interest of our federal delegation and the financial support that Sen. Baldwin and others have been able to help provide. This is the biggest capital project in the city's history and is essential to the health of our families and our economy."

Waukesha will switch to Lake Michigan water in late summer. The project, known as the Great Water Alliance, will end the city's use of local groundwater, which is severely depleted and unsustainable for long-term use. The current water supply is also contaminated with naturally occurring radium. Water will be brought from Milwaukee and then returned to Lake Michigan after use and treatment via 36 miles of new pipelines.

"We appreciate the support that Sen. Baldwin and our entire congressional delegation have given to the project over the years. We have received federal financial help for key elements of our new infrastructure, as along with long-term low-interest loans," the mayor said. "We will continue to work with both federal and state lawmakers to help ensure that water rates are kept as reasonable as possible for our residents and businesses."

Baldwin also met with first responders at city hall to learn more about the challenges they face. "Staffing and funding for our first responders are among the biggest challenges facing local communities today," Reilly said. "The Senator was interested in hearing first-hand from the people dealing with those issues locally."

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