

# WATER@MICHIGAN –SUMMARY & BIOGRAPHY

## GABE EHRLICH

### PRESENTATION SUMMARY

#### **The Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics' Water Research**

Subtheme: *From Rust to Blue*

My unit is currently conducting a socioeconomic impact analysis of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and we are also contracted with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to provide economic and fiscal impact analyses of Transformational Brownfield Plans. We are most interested in improving our analysis of the house price impacts of water investments in the regional economy.

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Gabriel Ehrlich, Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics, LS&A Economics Department

Contact Info (email/phone): [gehrlich@umich.edu](mailto:gehrlich@umich.edu)

My research areas include urban and regional economics, housing economics, the macroeconomics of the labor market, and economic forecasting.

Past co-produced research projects include:

- We are in the second phase of our impact analysis of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). In the first phase, we found that the GLRI created or supported a significant number of jobs in the Great Lakes region and increased the regional population. We also found suggestive evidence of a correlation between GLRI spending and faster house price appreciation. We are working to refine these results currently. Our partners on the project include the Water Center, Central Michigan University, and the Great Lakes Commission.
- We are under contract to evaluate the economic and fiscal impacts of Transformational Brownfield Plans for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The legislation that established the program allows for up to five projects per year for up to five years. The analysis for the first project is essentially complete, but the report is not yet public. Our partner on the project is the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. We

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also worked closely with SB Friedman Development Advisors of Chicago, which conducted a financial underwriting analysis of the project.

- We studied the economic and fiscal impacts of Medicaid expansion in Michigan. The headline results are that the expansion is likely to increase statewide employment by an average of approximately 30,000 jobs per year, and that the increase in economic activity should produce approximately \$150 million per year of additional state tax revenue. Our partners on the project were John Ayanian of the University's Institute for Health Policy Innovation and Helen Levy of the University's Institute for Social Research.