

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Iowans Crowdfund to Save State's Water Monitoring Network

*Grassroots campaign launches to restore critical University of Iowa program*

**DES MOINES, Iowa — September 29, 2025** — In a state defined by its rivers, lakes, and farmland, Iowans are now being asked to do something unprecedented: crowdfund to keep their water safe. Following a \$500,000 budget cut, the University of Iowa's long-standing water monitoring program—one of the state's most vital tools for tracking nitrate pollution, harmful algal blooms, and overall water quality—faces collapse.

For more than a decade, the program operated without a single funding increase. Now, Iowa is on the verge of going from 90 active monitoring sites to just 20, leaving communities across the state without essential data to safeguard drinking water, recreation, and ecosystems.

### Why It Matters

- **\$500,000 per year:** Keeps the network running at its most basic capacity.
- **\$600,000 per year:** Fully funds operations, equipment renewal, and professional data analysis.

"From rural wells to municipal water systems, and from Iowa's rivers to the Gulf of Mexico's Dead Zone, the monitoring network plays a vital role in protecting public health and environmental resilience. Without it, Iowans lose transparency and accountability during a worsening water quality crisis" says Dale Braun, President of the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America representing 7,000 members in the state.

### Who's Leading the Effort

The Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America is spearheading a statewide crowdfunding campaign to sustain the monitoring network. The effort will be spotlighted at the upcoming **Iowa Nature Summit**, a major gathering focused on conservation and environmental action.

"The Iowa Nature Summit is excited to partner with the IWL on this critical project," said **Prof. Neil Hamilton of Drake University**, Summit organizer. "One of our core goals is to identify concrete actions Iowans can take to protect our natural resources. Funding the water monitors gives us the information needed to make smarter decisions about improving Iowa's water quality."

Donations can be made directly at: <https://gofund.me/33be2dbdc>.

## Campaign Goal

The immediate goal is to raise **\$500,000**—enough to keep the University of Iowa's water monitoring network operational for another year. Every dollar raised supports monitoring operations, equipment maintenance, and expert analysis that help communities stay informed and safe.

## More Than a Fundraiser

This initiative is about more than money—it's about values. While citizens should not have to crowdfund clean water protection, the campaign has become a rallying cry across Iowa. Residents are sending a clear message: they will not stand by while clean water is neglected.

## How to Help

- **Donate:** Every gift, large or small, brings the campaign closer to its \$500,000 goal.
- **Share:** Spread the word on social media, email, or in conversations with neighbors.
- **Speak Out:** Join the conversation at the Iowa Nature Summit and beyond. Make it clear: Iowa demands clean water.

Together, Iowans can keep the monitors running, protect public health, and spark a broader movement for lasting change.

---

### Media Contact:

Dale Braun

President, Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America

Phone: 319-573-6339

Email: [president.state.division@gmail.com](mailto:president.state.division@gmail.com)

---

## About the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America

Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America is one of the nation's oldest conservation organizations, dedicated to protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable outdoor recreation. The Iowa Division has a long history of grassroots advocacy, water quality initiatives, and community-based conservation projects that preserve the state's land, air, and water for future generations. Learn more at [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org).

## About the Iowa Nature Summit

The Iowa Nature Summit is a statewide gathering of conservation leaders, scientists, educators, and citizens committed to protecting Iowa's natural heritage. The Summit provides a platform for collaboration, education, and action on pressing environmental issues, with a focus on practical solutions that empower Iowans to make a difference. More information is available at **[www.iowanature.org](http://www.iowanature.org)**