

January 10, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC

RE: Water Infrastructure Investment Needs

Dear Congressional Leaders,

The undersigned organizations write to urge Congress to include funding and financing for drinking water, wastewater, water reuse and stormwater infrastructure in any infrastructure package considered during the 116th Congress. Given the well-documented needs of our nation's aging water infrastructure, an infrastructure package represents an excellent opportunity to provide necessary resources to meet long-term economic, public health and environmental goals.

The U.S. EPA estimates that America's water and wastewater infrastructure requires nearly \$750 billion worth of investment over the next 20 years just to maintain current levels of service, and independent estimates place this figure over \$1 trillion. Local ratepayers will shoulder much of this burden, but all levels of government must be part of the solution.

Aging infrastructure replacement needs account for much of the investment gap. In addition, federal regulatory requirements over the last three decades have steadily grown to account for a significant portion of the cost associated with investment needs. While federal contributions to transportation infrastructure have stayed constant at approximately half of total capital spending, federal investment in water infrastructure has declined from 63% to 9% since 1977.

America's future economic strength depends on investments made today in water infrastructure. These investments create jobs and support the economy. Every \$1 invested in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure increases long-term GDP by \$6.35, creates 1.6 new jobs, and provides \$23.00 in public health-related benefits. These new jobs in the water sector are also high-paying (~\$64,000/year), skilled, and largely recession proof since many are in municipal government. Studies also show that the US economy would stand to gain over \$200 billion in annual economic activity and 1.3 million jobs over a 10-year period by meeting its current water infrastructure needs. Without these investments, breakdowns in water supply, treatment and wastewater capacity are projected to cost manufacturers and other businesses over \$7.5 trillion in lost sales and \$4.1 trillion in lost GDP from 2011 to 2040.

In a recent survey of American's opinions on the value of investing in our water resources, 78% of respondents said it's "extremely or very important" that the President and Congress develop a plan to rebuild America's water infrastructure. The same survey found that 88% of respondents agreed that increased federal investment was needed to rebuild water infrastructure.

As Congress develops a comprehensive infrastructure proposal, we urge you to remember that water infrastructure is often co-located with transportation infrastructure, such as roadways and bridges. When roadways are dug up or bridges rebuilt, it would be less expensive to rehabilitate water lines at that point in time instead of digging them up again.

In addition, the cost of water service to low-income customers is an increasing concern and the U.S. federal contributions to water infrastructure finance help local utilities cushion the costs of water service to customers.

Our nation has faced many challenges over the last two centuries, but through collaboration and perseverance we have found solutions. Our organizations applaud Congress for its past efforts to take action to address the nation's infrastructure challenges. We strongly encourage you to include water infrastructure as a major component of the infrastructure package in 2019.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona  
Alabama Water Environment Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Membrane Technology Association  
American Public Works Association  
American Rivers  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Sustainable Business Council  
American Water Works Association  
Arizona Water Association  
Arkansas Water Environment Association  
Association of California Water Agencies  
Association of Clean Water Administrators  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Association of Regional Water Organizations  
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
California Water Environment Association  
Central States Water Environment Association  
Clean Water Action  
Chesapeake Water Environment Association

Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania  
Colorado Wastewater Utility Council  
Connecticut Association of Water Pollution Control Associations  
Connecticut Water Pollution Abatement Association  
Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities  
Design-Build Institute of America  
Endangered Habitats League  
Florida Water Environment Association  
Freshwater Future  
Georgia Association of Water Professionals  
Green Mountain Water Environment Association  
Gulf Restoration Network  
Hawaii Water Environment Association  
Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies  
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited  
Illinois Water Environment Association  
Indiana Water Environment Association  
Iowa Water Environment Association  
Kansas Water Environment Association  
Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association  
Michigan Water Environment Association  
Maine Water Environment Association  
Mississippi Water Environment Association  
Missouri Public Utility Alliance  
Missouri Water Environment Association  
Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Association of Sewer Service Companies  
National Association of Water Companies  
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of our low-income clients  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
National Rural Water Association  
National Water Resources Association  
Nebraska Water Environment Association  
New England Water Environment Association  
New York Water Environment Association  
North Carolina AWWA-WEA  
North Dakota Water Environment Association  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio Water Environment Association  
Oklahoma Municipal Utility Providers  
Oklahoma Water Environment Association  
Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies  
Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association  
Passaic River Coalition

Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Water Environment Association  
Rural Coalition  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
Sierra Club  
South Dakota Water Environment Association  
Southeast Watershed Alliance of New Hampshire  
Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies  
The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia  
Trout Unlimited  
US Water Alliance  
Vermont Rural Water Association  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
Water & Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association  
Water Environment Association of South Carolina  
Water Environment Association of Texas  
Water Environment Federation  
WateReuse Association  
WESTCAS  
West Coast Infrastructure Exchange  
West Virginia Water Environment Association

CC: House Energy & Commerce Committee  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
House Ways & Means Committee  
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee  
Senate Finance Committee