



July 29, 2013

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of municipal and county elected officials, State drinking and clean water administrators, and drinking and waste water utilities across the country, we urge Congress to restore the drastic cuts made to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs in the House proposed FY 2014 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill to at least the funding levels named in the FY2013 omnibus spending bill \$1.452 billion and \$909 million, respectively.

Communities across the country face enormous challenges in providing their residents with safe and clean water and while we understand the nation faces difficult fiscal decisions, disinvesting in our nation's public health infrastructure should not be the solution. The water and wastewater infrastructure needs of this country are well known: our drinking water utilities and wastewater utilities face needs upwards of \$1 trillion or more to fund their systems over the next twenty years according to surveys released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Water Works Association and others. Communities rely on the State Revolving Fund programs to obtain low-cost financing to meet these needs -- ratepayers cannot shoulder this burden alone.

While we recognize that the Budget Committee's allocation required that the Interior/EPA Subcommittee make difficult choices, we cannot allow the job of maintaining our critical water and wastewater infrastructure to become a budget casualty. It must be seen as an investment. As you work to negotiate a final FY2014 EPA budget, we urge you to ensure that the SRF programs remain a reliable partner in meeting the nation's water and wastewater needs by restoring the proposed cuts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please contact Hannah Mellman at hmellman@nacwa.org, Judy Sheahan at jsheahan@usmayors.org, Julie Ufner at JUfner@naco.org, or Leslie Wollack at Wollack@nlc.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
U.S. Conference of Mayors

Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties

Clarence Anthony
Executive Director
National League of Cities

Alexandra Dunn
Executive Director
Association of Clean Water Administrators

James Taft
Executive Director
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Rick Farrell
Executive Director
Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities

Ken Kirk
Executive Director
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Diane VanDe Hei
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Peter King
Executive Director
American Public Works Association

Tom Curtis
Director of Government Affairs
American Water Works Association

Eileen J. O'Neill
Interim Executive Director
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