

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Appropriations Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Calvert, and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to reiterate our strong support for robust funding for clean and safe water infrastructure by requesting a minimum of \$2 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Clean Water SRF) and \$2 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (Drinking Water SRF) in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) fiscal year 2017 funding package.

The critical need for Federal investment in our water infrastructure is without question. In recent memory, we have all witnessed the impacts of failed water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, ranging from ruptured pipes; to sewage overflows or stormwater runoff that contaminate local waters; to flawed drinking water treatment processes that deliver contaminated water to peoples' homes and businesses.

From Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Washington, D.C., from Alamosa, Colorado to Charleston, West Virginia, and from Toledo, Ohio to Flint, Michigan, large communities and small towns have suffered the consequences of failed water and wastewater systems that have led to public health emergencies, outbreaks of water contaminated by disease, algal blooms or other toxic materials, and, unfortunately, even to death. In addition, these infrastructure failures are costing businesses, individuals, and state and local governments millions of dollars in emergency repairs and responses and in lost revenues.

Simply put – the health and safety of our communities depend on safe, reliable, and efficient water and wastewater treatment systems, including the pipes that distribute treated water to our homes and businesses or that convey domestic and industrial wastes for appropriate treatment. Yet, the condition of much of our water and wastewater infrastructure is declining or quickly nearing the end of its useful life. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2013 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure, our nation’s systems of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure each receive a “D” rating. Moreover, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) latest survey of capital improvement needs for public water systems, we need to invest more than \$384 billion in drinking water infrastructure improvements over the next 20 years to ensure the delivery of safe water in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and an additional \$270 billion to meet the nation’s wastewater and stormwater treatment and collection needs.

Decades ago, Congress created two, distinct programs to maintain a Federal commitment to addressing local water and wastewater infrastructure needs – the Drinking Water SRF and the Clean Water SRF. Through SRFs investment programs, states provide loans and other financial assistance to local communities or utilities to support upgrades and replacements of water distribution pipelines, treatment plants, sewer lines, stormwater conveyances, and other similar infrastructure. This funding is critical as it helps communities maintain safe and effective water infrastructure and affords states the flexibility to fund their highest-priorities. Yet, as public health and science demand more stringent drinking water and wastewater treatment standards and more comprehensive efforts to target ongoing sources of pollution, Congress must maintain this critical partnership with States and local communities to meet this growing, critical, and urgent investment need.

Robust funding of these critical financing authorities not only helps protect public health, and ensure safer and clean water, but it also is vital to our economy. There is no business that can operate without access to a reliable supply of clean water. In addition, property values, tourism, and recreational and commercial fishing, also rely on clean water and provide long-term benefits to our communities. According to data from the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), for every \$1 billion in investment in water-related infrastructure, approximately 27,000 new jobs are added; \$3.4 billion is added to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and personal (household) spending is increased by \$1.06 billion.

While we all understand the difficult fiscal choices we must make in Washington, the tragedies of Toledo, Flint, and Charleston need to stop – and the quickest way to accomplish this goal is to provide the necessary resources our States, our communities, and our citizens are demanding. The Clean Water SRF and the Drinking Water SRF remain critical tools for pollution prevention, economic growth, and public health. Therefore, we urge you to renew the federal commitment to water infrastructure by funding these programs at levels that will begin to reduce the backlog of repair and replacement projects for these vital systems.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your continued commitment to clean and safe water for our communities.

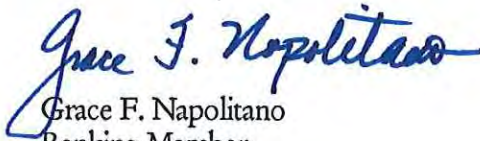
Sincerely,



Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Grace F. Napolitano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment



Paul Tonko  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment  
and the Economy



Leo J. Walsh

Cheri Bustos

Adam B. Schiff

Steve Cohen

Eric L. Enger

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Jackie Speier

Mike Purples

John P. Lukan

Domestic F. Edwards

Jeff Sessions

Marcia K. Judge

Ernst C. Roybal

Peter Welch

Theresa M. Velázquez

Chaka Fattah

Chris Smith

Steph S. Lee

Daniel Lipinski

Charles B. Rangel

Mvette P. Clarke

Paul Johnson

Shirley Jackson L

Ann Smith

Jung Mo Nam

Lois Capps

Flynn E. Tamm

Jerald Nadler

Rick Larson

Coby Lush

Cornie Bauer

Pat

Miss Lisa

L. J. Jan

Doris Matsui

GeButterf



Bill Russell Jr.

Brian Agis

Eleanor H. Noton

Dina Tetra

1/27

Nema & Team  
Rarby

with

Ted W. Linn

H. Vry

J. Lewis

Mark DSE.

Mike Doyle

Dmfy Jr.

Brendan J. Boyle

John C. Carney

Suzanne Brannin

Jim Langwin

Mark Takano



Michael E Capuano

Paul Patis

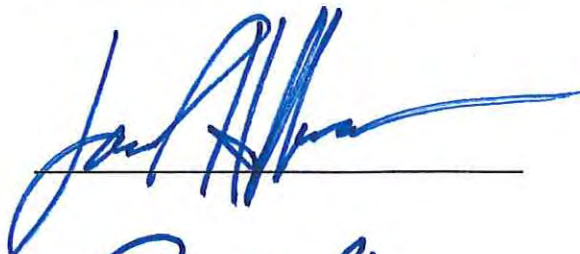


Lois Franzel



Michael M Honda

Danny D. Davis



Ami B



John B Larson



Peter Aquil



Carl Blum



F. Webb

Hilli R. Keating

Denny Heck

JOAQUIN CASTRO

K. R. P. P.

Kathy Castro

Elizabeth H. Esty

~~Y. K. P. P.~~

Janet Falk

Robin Watson Coleman

J. K. 7

Jim Smallwood

M. R. P.

Alan Lowenthal

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Russ Van Haller

Frederica S. Wilson

Juan Vargas



Raid M. Ghajjar

Shukri

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

List of Co-Signers on March 15, 2016 Letter to House Appropriations Committee

Page 3

Rep. Peter A. DeFazio  
Rep. Grace F. Napolitano

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Rep. Paul Tonko

Page 4

Rep. Timothy J. Walz  
Rep. Adam B. Schiff  
Rep. Elliot L. Engel  
Rep. Jackie Speier  
Rep. John P. Sarbanes  
Rep. John Garamendi  
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver  
Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez  
Rep. Richard M. Nolan

Rep. Cheri Bustos  
Rep. Steve Cohen  
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Rep. Mike Quigley  
Rep. Donna F. Edwards  
Rep. Marcia L. Fudge  
Rep. Peter Welch  
Rep. Chaka Fattah  
Rep. Stephen F. Lynch

Page 5

Rep. Mark Takano  
Rep. Ed Perlmutter  
Rep. Jared Polis  
Rep. Lois Frankel  
Rep. Michael M. Honda  
Rep. Jared Huffman  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren  
Rep. Robert C. Scott  
Rep. Scott Peters

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney  
Rep. Michael E. Capuano  
Rep. Raul Ruiz  
Rep. Julia Brownley  
Rep. Danny K. Davis  
Rep. Ami Bera  
Rep. John B. Larson  
Rep. Peter Aguilar  
Rep. Earl Blumenauer

Page 6

Rep. Filemon Vela  
Rep. Denny Heck  
Rep. Mark Takai  
Rep. Elizabeth H. Esty  
Rep. Janice Hahn  
Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.  
Rep. Mark Pocan  
Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Rep. Frederica S. Wilson

Rep. William R. Keating  
Rep. Joaquin Castro  
Rep. Kathy Castor  
Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick  
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Rep. Eric Swalwell  
Rep. Alan S. Lowenthal  
Rep. Chris Van Hollen  
Rep. Juan Vargas

Page 7

Rep. Daniel Lipinski  
Rep. Yvette D. Clarke  
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee  
Rep. Jerry McNerney  
Rep. Elijah E. Cummings  
Rep. Rick Larsen  
Rep. Corrine Brown  
Rep. Albio Sires  
Rep. Doris O. Matsui

Rep. Charles B. Rangel  
Rep. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Rep. Adam Smith  
Rep. Lois Capps  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Rep. Bobby L. Rush  
Rep. Andre Carson  
Rep. Linda T. Sanchez  
Rep. G. K. Butterfield

Page 8

Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Rep. John A. Yarmuth  
Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Rep. Ted Lieu  
Rep. John Lewis  
Rep. Michael F. Doyle  
Rep. Brendan F. Boyle  
Rep. Susan Bonamici

Rep. Brian Higgins  
Rep. Dina Titus  
Rep. Norma Torres  
Rep. Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Rep. Marc A. Veasey  
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier  
Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Rep. John C. Carney, Jr.  
Rep. James R. Langevin

Page 9

Rep. Raul M. Grijalva

Rep. Daniel T. Kildee