



November 15, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Chairman Reed, Senator Cochran, and Senator Murkowski:

As Congress negotiates a final Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we are writing on behalf of State drinking water and water quality administrators as well as wastewater and drinking water utilities across the country to urge you to ensure funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is maintained at the Senate proposed figures of \$1.466 billion and \$917.892 million. Accordingly, we also ask that you provide \$238.403 million for the Clean Water Act §106 Operating Grant program and \$190.320 million for the Public Water Work System Supervision Program¹, which fund critical state jobs that help ensure clean and safe water for all Americans.

As Hurricane Sandy reminded us, modernizing and replacing the country's aging water infrastructure may be the single largest public works need that our Nation faces, and it will require a serious investment. EPA estimates \$187.9 billion in wastewater needs and \$334.8 billion in drinking water needs over the next 20 years. It must be noted, however, that EPA's Needs Surveys only consider projects that would be eligible for SRF funding. A recent study by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) revealed that the nation's need to reinvest in drinking water infrastructure alone, actually totals about \$1 trillion over the next 25 years. Clean water needs roughly parallel that.

¹ Furthermore, we strongly discourage EPA from directing that these already insufficient funds be spent on specific federal priorities. States must retain flexibility to direct funds to the largest pollution problems and activities.

In order to meet our Nation's fiscal challenges while ensuring the economy continues to grow, it is critical that federal investments are made in programs that will yield substantial economic benefits. The U.S. Conference of Mayors reports that each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term Gross Domestic Product output by \$6.35. The National Association of Utility Contractors estimates that \$1 billion invested in water and wastewater infrastructure can create over 26,000 jobs. Further, the Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the local water and wastewater industry creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries. It is clear that federal investment in water and wastewater leverages enormous benefits nationally and for our local economies.

In addition to the critical economic, public health, and environmental impacts from water and wastewater infrastructure investment, we will not deliver to the American public the clean water they expect without source water pollution prevention strategies. The Clean Water Act §319 grant program has been heralded by EPA and USDA as a successful and dynamic program that focuses on local partnerships with agricultural entities to reduce water pollution such as excess nutrient runoff. This program is in need of additional funds, which when leveraged with USDA programs, would yield \$4 in watershed investment for every federal dollar. We urge that funding for this program be provided at \$164.493 million.

It is clear that federal investment in water and wastewater leverages enormous benefits nationally and for our local economies. Considering the importance of water and wastewater infrastructure to the well-being of the American people and to our economy, it is critical that the federal government remains a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs. Every federal dollar directed to these programs enhances safe and clean water for all.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please contact Hannah Mellman at hmellman@nacwa.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Ken Kirk
Executive Director
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Alexandra Dunn
Executive Director
Association of Clean Water Administrators

Diane VanDe Hei
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Jeff Eger
Executive Director
Water Environment Federation

Tom Curtis
Director of Government Affairs
American Water Works Association

Peter King
Executive Director
American Public Works Association

James Taft
Executive Director
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Rick Farrell
Executive Director
Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities

Cc: Members of the Senate