



May 8, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we wish to express our support for America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. This bill responsibly continues Congress' recent practice of reauthorizing the Water Resources Development Act on a predictable two-year schedule and delivers continued funding opportunities for critical water infrastructure improvements.

In particular, we strongly support the bill's reauthorization of the existing Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Originally authorized in the 2014 WRDA bill, WIFIA is designed to complement EPA's State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs by leveraging a relatively modest federal investment into a significant source of low-interest loans for major drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects across the country, as well as compilations of smaller projects assembled by state SRF agencies. In fact, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt recently told a House committee that WIFIA is "an additional innovative and flexible source of low-cost capital for communities of all sizes."

EPA recently awarded its first loan under the WIFIA program, and the agency has just begun to solicit letters of interest for the next round of funding – which promises to leverage a \$55 million appropriation into \$5.5 billion worth of loans to states and communities. We appreciate that your legislation will allow the WIFIA program to build on this progress.

Our organizations also strongly appreciate provisions in the bill to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and help respond to critical issues facing our sector. Codifying wastewater integrated planning, a proposal that has already passed the Senate with near unanimous support (S. 692), will help advance infrastructure investment through strategic, holistic planning. Further key provisions include authorizing EPA's WaterSense program, promoting wastewater recycling, strengthening the water workforce, and endorsing continued robust SRF funding.

Again, we would like to express our support for America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 with these critical provisions for advancing water infrastructure across the country. We urge that they remain in the final legislation, and we are willing to work with you to address any technical corrections that may be necessary. We look forward to working with the committee to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
Water Environment Federation

cc: Environment and Public Works Committee members