

October 24, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Senate Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Senate Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
House Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
House Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

As Congress begins to negotiate final appropriations legislation for FY 2020, the water sector strongly urges your support for continued federal investment in critical water infrastructure funding assistance programs. These programs are vital for protecting public health and the environment, promoting economic growth, and ensuring states and local communities can meet their increasing demands for clean and safe water.

In particular, we strongly urge you to adopt the following funding levels:

- No less than \$1,784,000,000 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, as detailed in the House Interior & Environment Subcommittee bill;
- No less than \$1,300,000,000 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, as detailed in the House Interior & Environment Subcommittee bill;
- \$73 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, as detailed in the Senate Interior & Environment Subcommittee bill.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that our nation's drinking water and clean water infrastructure will require nearly \$750 billion in investment over the next 20 years just to maintain current levels of service, with some estimating the need at over \$1 trillion. State and local dollars fund the vast majority of water and wastewater investment in the U.S., but a strong federal partnership is essential. Therefore, we strongly believe that EPA's FY20 appropriation must provide adequate funding that reflects the true water infrastructure needs across the country.

Core programs such as the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program help finance critical drinking water and clean water projects, many of which are in communities that need access to low-interest loans in order to not overburden lower income ratepayers and remain in compliance with

federal and state regulations. These programs are also important for communities pursuing water reuse projects to address pressing water resource challenges.

Additionally, our organizations supported passage of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018, which was signed into law one year ago with several new grant programs that will, if funded, directly assist communities working to address challenges that are considered national water infrastructure priorities. We respectfully request the following amounts for these critical programs: \$20 million, as provided in the House bill, to facilitate lead pipe replacement; \$1 million, as provided in the Senate bill, for water workforce development; \$90 million, as provided in the House bill, for investing in sewer overflow and stormwater infrastructure needs; \$4 million, as provided in the House bill, for increasing water system resiliency and sustainability; and \$4 million, as provided in the House bill, for accelerating innovative water technologies.

We greatly appreciate your attention to these important programs in the 2020 fiscal year. Please contact any of our organizations to further discuss any of these issues and funding requests.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Water Resources Association
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
US Water Alliance
Water Environment Federation
WateReuse Association

October 24, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
House Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
House Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chairwoman Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you work to finalize Energy and Water appropriations for FY 2020, the undersigned organizations are writing to highlight the importance of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, and to urge you to provide no less than \$20 million for the competitive grants portion of the program (Section 4009(c) of WIIN), as detailed in the Senate Committee Report.

The Title XVI program is the only federal program with water reuse as its sole focus. Since Title XVI's inception in 1992, Congress has authorized 53 Title XVI recycling projects producing more than 400,000 acre-feet of drought-resistant water supply. To date, Congress has appropriated approximately \$672 million in federal funding which has been leveraged with non-federal funding to implement more than \$3.3 billion in water reuse improvements – a nearly 5:1 leverage ratio.

In 2016, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act established a mechanism, colloquially known as Title XVI-WIIN, to enable new projects to apply for competitive grants within Title XVI. Due to the popularity of Title XVI-WIIN in its first few years, the program now has a large and growing backlog of more than \$550 million in federal cost share for eligible projects, and demand is expected to grow as more projects become eligible.

Given the critical role that water recycling will play in future water management, and given the overwhelming demand for Title XVI-WIIN projects across the West, we urge you to include \$20 million at a minimum for this program in the final appropriations agreement for FY 2020.

We also request that the final conference report for FY 2020 exclude Senate Committee Report language dictating that, of the total appropriation provided for Title XVI, \$20 million must be used for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects. ASR is vitally important; however, it should not be mandated by Congress through the Title XVI program. Mandating that a large portion of Title XVI funding be used for a particular project type would create a less diverse

project pool and significantly alter the nature of the program. Instead, we urge you to let the competitive process bear out so that the most effective, efficient, and qualified projects move forward.

Finally, we ask for your support in securing \$12 million, as included in the Senate Committee Report, for the WIIN portion of USBR's Desalination and Water Purification Program in FY 2020.

The Desalination Program provides funding for projects in Reclamation states that involve ocean or brackish water desalination. In the arid West, desalination is an important tool that can help communities increase their water supply. Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
US Water Alliance
Water Environment Federation
WateReuse Association