



April 1, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Senate Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
House Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
House Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

As Congress begins work on the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) appropriations bills, 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.

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. 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 (SRFs) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program provide funding for 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. We therefore request that in FY20 Congress:

- Increase the Clean Water SRF appropriation beyond its FY19 level of \$1.7 billion;
- Fund the Drinking Water SRF at its fully authorized level of \$1.3 billion; and
- Fund the WIFIA program at its fully authorized level of \$50 million.

Additionally, our organizations strongly supported passage of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018, which was signed into law last October with several new grant programs that will, if funded, directly assist communities working to address challenges that are considered national water infrastructure priorities. These include programs to facilitate lead pipe replacement, water workforce development, investing in sewer overflow and stormwater infrastructure needs, increasing water system resiliency and sustainability, and accelerating innovative water technologies. Our organizations support appropriating the fully authorized funding level for each of these new AWIA programs in FY20.

We greatly appreciate the Subcommittee's attention to these important programs in the upcoming 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 Association of Clean Water Agencies
US Water Alliance
Water Environment Federation
WateReuse Association