

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

The undersigned water sector organizations write today in support of the American Society of Association Executives' (ASAE) request to include significant, emergency financial support for associations, nonprofits and 501(c)3 organizations within federal stimulus or aid packages, and to establish a federal risk insurance program to help cover business-related losses due to a pandemic or epidemic.

Water and wastewater utilities provide essential services to communities and businesses, and the professional associations and nonprofits serving them provide important support for professionals working in the water sector. Several water-focused associations and non-profits are facing major financial harm due to the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Without swift action, harm may be irreparable, and many of these associations and nonprofits could potentially shutter permanently and be unable to assist water professionals during this time of immense tribulation.

Our organizations urge you to include the following in relief measures under consideration:

\$25 Billion in Capital Assistance to Associations and Nonprofits

Water sector associations and nonprofits have suffered major financial losses as a result of meeting, event and conference cancellations in the recent past and near future. Many water-focused organizations depend on event revenues to survive and, due to massive revenue losses, may be forced to cease operations. According to Professional Convention Management Association's most recent Meetings Market Survey, the average revenue of associations' largest meeting is \$1.1 million and meetings revenue overall accounts for roughly 35 percent of total annual revenue. Extrapolating these figures over the entire association sector, ASAE requests \$25 billion in emergency funding to the association and nonprofit communities so they can continue to support America's workforce and pursue their missions in public service.

Pandemic Risk Insurance

A measure ("Pandemic Risk Insurance Act of 2020"; PRIA) to mandate that businesses who demonstrate significant business interruption and sharp decline in present and future revenue would be insured in case of a possible pandemic or epidemic. The measure would create a federal "backstop" (much like the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA)), for insurance claims related to a pandemic or epidemic. The specific

purpose of the pandemic risk insurance would be to provide for a federal loss-sharing program for certain insured losses resulting from a certified pandemic/epidemic.

This measure would create the Pandemic Risk Insurance Program (PRIP), a three-year program to provide a government reinsurance backstop in the case of pandemic health epidemic/pandemic. For purposes of this measure, an epidemic is defined as the occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness, specific health-related behavior, or health-related events clearly in excess of normal expectancy. A pandemic is defined as an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people. When the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General, certify that an “epidemic” or “pandemic” event has occurred within the confines of the United States, then this measure will immediately take effect.

Together, these policy solutions will not merely help water associations and nonprofits nationwide keep their doors open; they are utterly necessary to protect employees’ wellbeing and enable water associations and nonprofits to continue to pursue essential missions in the interest of the economy, the public and society as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of our country during this challenging time. If you have questions regarding this urgent request for critically needed support for the association and nonprofit sectors, please contact Mary Kate Cunningham, vice president of public policy for the American Society of Association Executives, at mcunningham@asaecenter.org or 202-626-2787.

Sincerely,

Scott Grayson
Chief Executive Officer
American Public Works Association

David B. LaFrance
Chief Executive Officer
American Water Works Association

Diane VanDe Hei
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Adam Krantz
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Robert Powelson
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Water Companies

Radhika Fox
Chief Executive Officer
US Water Alliance

Walter T. Marlowe, P.E., CAE
Executive Director
Water Environment Federation

Peter Grevatt
Chief Executive Officer
Water Research Foundation

Patricia Sinicropi
Executive Director
WateReuse Association

Vanessa M. Leiby
Executive Director
Water and Wastewater Equipment
Manufacturers Association

Cc: The Honorable Nita Lowey, The Honorable Kay Granger, The Honorable Richard Shelby, The Honorable Patrick Leahy