



March 11, 2025

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Collins and Ranking Member Wilson,

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record for today’s Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing, “Water Infrastructure Financing: WIFIA and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.” AMWA’s members provide quality drinking water to more than 160 million Americans and we commend the Committee for recognizing the importance of these programs in funding drinking and wastewater infrastructure projects.

While we understand that the subcommittee’s jurisdiction is limited to oversight of clean water infrastructure, a comprehensive approach to maintaining and renewing the nation’s water systems recognizes how drinking water and wastewater systems are intertwined. AMWA appreciates the Committee’s ongoing commitment to improving the nation’s wastewater infrastructure, alongside the efforts of the Energy and Commerce Committee to strengthen drinking water systems. Together, these efforts improve our water systems overall and help utilities access resources to ensure reliable access to clean drinking water.

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Much of the country's drinking water infrastructure is aging and in need of repairs or upgrades. Last year, the EPA released the results of its 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, which found that across the country, drinking water systems require approximately \$625 billion over the next twenty years just to maintain current levels of service.¹ The most recent Clean Watersheds Needs Survey also showed a \$630 billion need for wastewater funding, totaling a combined \$1.3 trillion needed investment in water infrastructure over the next two decades.² The Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds are critical programs that provide baseline funding for drinking and wastewater utilities, but more investments are needed to modernize water infrastructure and meet future water needs. These needs are increasingly strained by a growing population, infrastructure damages from natural disasters, water supply fluctuations from floods and droughts, and complying with new regulations to protect against contaminants, like lead pipes and PFAS contamination.

The current funding and program authorizations included within Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) play a critical role in ensuring that the nation's drinking water infrastructure will be resilient to the challenges of tomorrow. In particular, the law's nearly \$50 billion worth of additional federal spending on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure over five years is making strides to help systems repair aging water infrastructure and comply with expanded regulatory mandates. While the funding provided in the BIL and IIJA represents an important step forward, it only scratches the surface of the needed long-term investment in our nation's water utilities.

Programs like the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) are crucial resources for AMWA's members. The Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF funding helps water utilities comply with Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act mandates, but WIFIA funding is necessary to finance large-scale infrastructure updates that many utilities wouldn't otherwise be able to pay for without assistance. WIFIA projects often have multi-pronged approaches that benefit both drinking water and wastewater systems. Just last month, the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, an AMWA member, received a \$147 million WIFIA loan to improve the system's ability to withstand hurricanes and other extreme weather events, address emerging contaminants, and expand capacity to meet customer needs.³ It includes upgrades to transmission mains, storage tanks, and a water treatment facility as well as constructing new infrastructure at the water treatment facility to proactively address PFAS in the drinking water. These upgrades simultaneously increase capacity of the water system as well as the longevity of the infrastructure, while addressing contaminants—and in the long-term, the loan will save the authority nearly \$30 million dollars.

¹ https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/Final_FAQ_DWINSAs_4.4.23.v1.pdf

² <https://www.epa.gov/cwns/clean-watersheds-needs-survey-cwns-2022-report-and-data>

³ <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-02/wifia-factsheet-fkaa-ii.pdf>

WIFIA also provided Birmingham Water Works Board, another AMWA member, a \$171 million loan to restore Lake Purdy Dam, replace water mains and lead service lines, and rehabilitate storage tanks.⁴ By stabilizing the dam to prevent seepage, the project will bolster water supplies for Birmingham during droughts. Birmingham also experiences over 250 water main breaks annually, amounting to timely and costly repairs, as well as substantial water loss. This project delivers much needed upgrades to the water system so that customers can rely on consistent access to water, without disruptions.

There are countless examples of how WIFIA has benefited drinking water utilities across the country, from providing funds for lead service line replacements in Philadelphia to investing in water reuse to replenish groundwater in Los Angeles. This funding not only saves water utilities and their ratepayers money, but it also creates well-paying jobs, builds system resilience to severe weather, and increases reliability of water delivery to customers. AMWA continues to support robust funding and reauthorizations for WIFIA and the SRFs, in addition to water infrastructure programs passed through IJA, which will expire in FY 2026. These programs are necessary for meaningful investments in modern, reliable water infrastructure.

Again, AMWA appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record of today's hearing. Thank you, and AMWA and its members are eager to continue to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Dobbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Dobbins
Chief Executive Officer

⁴ https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/wifia-factsheet_birmingham.pdf