



July 19, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Pingree, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies strongly objects to the dramatic cuts to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) proposed in the Committee’s FY24 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies spending bill. If funding for the DWSRF is reduced to \$460.6 million next year, drinking water infrastructure around the country will suffer severe consequences.

EPA has estimated that the nation’s drinking water systems require more than \$470 billion worth of investments over the next 20 years, just to maintain current levels of service. In addition, we expect this cost to increase in the years ahead as water systems work to comply with new regulatory mandates related to PFAS, lead and copper, and other contaminants. Drinking water systems will also face staggering costs to prepare their infrastructure to withstand the effects of climate change and extreme weather. Without strong federal investment, more of these costs will fall on local water ratepayers who are already struggling to keep up with rising water rates.

The Committee’s FY24 spending proposal would reduce DWSRF funding by roughly 60% compared to regular enacted FY23 levels. This unprecedented cut would affect drinking water systems in each and every state across the country, and which are already struggling to keep up with growing infrastructure costs and state and federal mandates. Against this backdrop, it is simply unconscionable to reduce water infrastructure spending by such an extent.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 authorized the DWSRF to receive up to \$3

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billion in FY24. We strongly support full funding of this important program to ensure that the nation's water systems receive adequate federal support in their mission of protecting public health through the provision of clean and safe drinking water.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to working with the Committee to ensure that drinking water infrastructure is prioritized as the final FY24 appropriations process proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas Dobbins
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee members