



March 27, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, **we request that you support a funding level of \$1 billion for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

Congress created LIHWAP during the COVID-19 pandemic to help households maintain access to critical drinking and clean water services and provide relief for households facing economic uncertainty. This was the first time that Congress directly recognized and provided funding to address the burden that rising water and sewer bills have on lower income households. This critical step acknowledged that water is essential for public health and wellbeing, on par with other vital needs like energy and food for which federal assistance for eligible households has been available for decades.

LIHWAP has proven to be an essential lifeline for our utilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing aid roughly 400,000 households nationwide through its first year. In Alabama, nearly 10,000 households were assisted through this program, while more than 7,000 homes in Connecticut received LIHWAP aid.

While the program's emergency funding (a total of \$1.138 billion appropriated in FY21) is available through the end of FY 2023, some states have already used their full allocation, and others are anticipated to run out of LIHWAP funds before September 30. Given the scope of the need, we urge you to continue funding for LIHWAP at \$1 billion in FY24, so this critical aid is not interrupted as Congress considers the creation of a permanent federal low-income water assistance program.

Thank you for your consideration, and your efforts to help ensure continued access to clean and safe water.

Sincerely,

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

cc: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee members