



August 5, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member, Committee on
Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member, Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As the House and Senate begin the work of negotiating a final package of legislation to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act, the undersigned water and wastewater sector organizations urge you to include provisions to ensure that our nation’s drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure is able to withstand a variety of threats posed by extreme weather and climate change.

Specifically, we encourage you to build upon the new Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program that was authorized in Section 2005 of America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. That program offers competitive grant funds to help communities prepare their water infrastructure for the effects of climate change and extreme weather, but eligibility is limited to drinking water systems serving small or disadvantaged communities. **We support expanding eligibility for the existing drinking water program to include drinking water systems serving communities of any size, while also creating a similar version of the program for the nation’s wastewater and stormwater systems under the Clean Water Act.**

Expanding this program to serve more communities has bipartisan support. Last year Sens. Ben Cardin and Shelley Moore Capito introduced S. 2636, the Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act of 2019, which would build on the existing Sec. 2005 program in three important ways: It would authorize a companion Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program aimed at protecting communities’ wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, it would expand eligibility for the existing drinking water resilience and

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sustainability program to communities of all sizes, and it would extend the authorization of each program through 2024.

A version of S. 2636 was included in the two-bill WRDA package approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in May, though that legislation would inexplicably prevent drinking water systems serving communities of more than 100,000 people from competing for funds. Meanwhile, the Moving Forward Act approved by the House of Representatives in July would authorize \$1 billion for a similar program to increase the resilience of wastewater systems nationwide, serving communities of any size.

As the final package of WRDA 2020 legislation is developed, we urge you to ensure that all the nation's communities, of any size, have an opportunity to compete for essential funding to help prepare their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to withstand the effects of climate change and extreme weather.

We thank you for your work on this and other important water and wastewater policy issues.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Water Works Association
Association of California Water Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Association of Regional Water Organizations
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
US Water Alliance
Water Environment Federation
Water Utility Climate Alliance
WateReuse Association