

The Water Protection and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R. 3202)

What the Bill Seeks to Do

- H.R. 3202 would provide **\$10 billion annually to supplement existing local and state investments** to address the backlog of wastewater and water projects and to help communities meet federal standards.
- The bill would spur efficiencies in utility management, promote green infrastructure and research into new technologies, and create needed jobs. Some highlights of the bill include:
 - ✓ Over \$10 billion annually for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments
 - ✓ \$250 million annually for investments in controlling nonpoint sources of water pollution
 - ✓ \$500 million annually for controlling combined sewer overflows
 - ✓ Over \$60 million annually for technical assistance for small, rural communities
- The legislation will establish new sources of revenue for water infrastructure projects that are borne by polluters and products that rely on the wastewater stream for product disposal. These revenues are offset and would provide a deficit-neutral and protected source of revenue.

Water Infrastructure Funding – The Need Continues to Grow

- Despite a recent increase in Federal investments, a large deficit exists for the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Congressional Budget Office estimate a **\$500 billion investment gap** for water infrastructure over the next twenty years.
- **These needs are widespread throughout the nation.** Communities in every state face rising sewer and drinking water rates as well as lost revenues and increased costs. All occurring when municipal budgets are stretched thin and families and households are struggling to make ends meet.

Investments in Water Infrastructure are Good for the Economy, Environment and Public Health

- **Studies show water infrastructure projects have a significant economic impact.** It is estimated that every \$1 billion provided for wastewater and water infrastructure **yields between 20,000 and 27,000 jobs as well as an economic ripple effect that adds \$2.87 to \$3.46 billion** as a result of that investment.
- **The health of the nation's water resources are declining.** The EPA reports that **39% of river and stream miles and 45% of assessed lake acres do not meet water quality standards.**
- **Aging Infrastructure adds costs to business, ratepayers and the government-** U.S. government estimates show that 1.7 trillion gallons are lost from water distribution systems on an annual basis costing the nation more than \$2.6 billion per year.
- With construction industry unemployment hovering around 20%, significant needs in every corner of the nation and clear economic benefit – now is the time to invest in water infrastructure.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) is the leading advocate for national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment. NACWA represents the collective interests of over 300 American clean water utilities –dedicated public servants and true environmental champions that treat eighty percent of all sewered communities.