



August 31, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Majority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Kyl
Minority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senate Leadership,

As America's leading construction, engineering, conservation, labor, municipal, and manufacturing organizations, we strongly support the bipartisan Water Infrastructure Financing Act (S. 1005) and urge the Senate to pass this critical infrastructure legislation this fall, after the November elections. The Water Infrastructure Financing Act, authored by Senators Boxer, Inhofe, Cardin and Crapo, was approved by the Environment and Public Works Committee in July 2009 on a 17-2 vote. This legislation enjoys substantial bipartisan support in the Senate and is deserving of consideration before the close of the 111th Congress. We are unaware of any other major legislative measure pending before the Senate that can garner broader bipartisan support.

Investment in our nation's water infrastructure also enjoys broad bipartisan support in the House as well. On July 30, 2010, the House passed by voice vote the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act (HR 5320) – legislation reauthorizing the Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund. On March 12, 2009, the House passed the Water Quality Investment Act (HR 1262) – legislation reauthorizing the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund--by a vote of 317 to 101. The Water Infrastructure Financing Act is essentially an amalgamation of HR 5320 and HR 1262, reauthorizing the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Funds.

America is facing staggering shortfalls in water infrastructure investment and the highest unemployment rates in over two decades. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Government Accountability Office, and the Water Infrastructure Network have all projected shortfalls in water infrastructure funding approaching \$500 billion over the next 20 years. The Water Infrastructure Financing Act makes eminent economic sense, creating jobs in the near term and enhancing America's competitiveness in the long term.

Again, the Water Infrastructure Network urges you to schedule the bipartisan Water Infrastructure Financing Act for consideration by the full Senate this fall.

Sincerely,

The Water Infrastructure Network

The Water Infrastructure Network - WIN

- National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Associated General Contractors of America
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Public Works Association
- American Council of Engineering Companies
- American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- International Union of Bricklayers
- Laborers International of North America
- United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices in the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
- Water Environment Federation
- Western Coalition of Arid States
- Clean Water Action
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- American Rivers
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Riverkeeper
- Trout Unlimited
- Ducks Unlimited
- American Sportfishing Association
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- Association of California Water Agencies
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters
- Design Build Institute of America
- California Rebuild America Coalition
- Associated Equipment Distributors
- Association of Equipment Manufacturers
- National Construction Alliance
- Clean Water Construction Coalition
- Construction Management Association of America
- Association of Equipment Manufacturers
- American Supply Association
- Vinyl Institute
- Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association
- Pipe Rehabilitation Council
- Portland Cement Association
- National Ready Mix Concrete Association
- Vermeer Corp.
- Environmental and Energy Study Institute
- National Society of Professional Engineers
- California Association of Sanitation Agencies
- National Association of Towns and Townships
- National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
- United Rental