



June 23, 2008

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Clean Water State Revolving Fund Appropriations Bill

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to significantly boost funding for the clean water state revolving fund (CWSRF) in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) fiscal year (FY) 2009 budget. The House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee has approved \$7.8 billion in spending for EPA in FY 2009, with \$850 million going to the CWSRF. This is a significant increase from the \$689 million allocated to the CWSRF in FY 2008 and would represent a critical first step toward a long-term, sustainable commitment to clean water.

This increased investment is essential to public health, the environment, and economic growth. It has yielded great benefits – waterways that once were declared dead have been reborn and waterfronts have been revitalized. While we have made significant progress, the job is far from over as nearly 40 percent of the nation's waterways remain impaired.

Federal assistance has not kept pace with needs, declining more than 70 percent since 1980. The nation now faces a funding gap of \$300-500 billion over the next 20 years between what is currently spent on wastewater infrastructure and total funding needs, according to the EPA, Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN). As our cities and economy have grown, water infrastructure needs have expanded to the point that local solutions alone can no longer address the increasing funding gap. Local communities now shoulder more than 95 percent of the cost of clean water.

It is critical that Congress step up to address this daunting challenge. Without a significant recommitment from our federal partners to help localities address the growing infrastructure need, we could return to the dire water quality problems that existed before the Clean Water Act became law by as early as 2016. We sincerely hope that you will make every effort to approve an FY 2009 spending bill with at least \$850 million for the CWSRF so that we can continue our

progress in providing clean and safe water for all Americans.

Thank you for your support of the nation's publicly owned treatment works and for your help in ensuring the strength and viability of the CWSRF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Kil". The "K" is large and stylized, with a vertical line to its left. The "Kil" is written in a cursive script.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. K. S.". The "M" is large and stylized, followed by "K. S." in a cursive script.

Natural Resources Defense Council