



March 8, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
US Senate Committee on Appropriations  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman  
US Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Reed, and Murkowski,

**As America's leading construction, engineering, municipal, conservation, labor and manufacturing organizations, we strongly support the funding levels for Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure included in the Senate Continuing Resolution unveiled last Friday.** The \$3.48 B included in the Senate's FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, \$2.1 B for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.38 B for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, is critical to putting Americans to work in the short term and enhancing our nation's competitiveness in the long-term.

The funding levels for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds contained in the Senate's FY 2011 Continuing Resolution are identical to those provided in FY 2010. However, these funding levels represent a restoration of \$1.9 B in funding for vital water projects that were cut in the Continuing Resolution approved by House of Representatives earlier this month. The funding restored in the Senate Continuing Resolution will provide for the construction of critical wastewater and drinking infrastructure in every state and create 30,400 additional quality construction jobs in a sector of our economy now experiencing 21.8 percent unemployment.

The Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds represent a time tested method for leveraging finite federal dollars for the construction of water infrastructure critical to

the daily lives of every American. The economic merits of federal investment in water infrastructure are well documented. The Department of Commerce has found that each public dollar spent on water infrastructure generates \$2.62 in economic output in the private sector. The US Conference of Mayors noted in a recent report that each dollar invested in water infrastructure yielded increased private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. There are few federal investments that yield greater value to our economy.

Investment in water infrastructure makes eminent economic sense, creating jobs in the near term and enhancing America's competitiveness in the long-term. Again we applaud your efforts to restore funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and look forward to working with you to ensure these funding levels are retained.

Sincerely,

**The Water Infrastructure Network**