



Association of State and Interstate
Water Pollution Control Administrators

July 14, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S 128 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S 146A Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and Association of State & Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) urge your support for increasing the funding levels for the Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF) to Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 levels. These funds were significantly cut in the House's Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Appropriations bill introduced last week and passed by Committee this week. The bill cuts the funding level from FY 2011 \$1.5 billion for the CWSRF to \$695 million, with additional cuts to the DWSRF. ASIWPCA and NACWA urge your support for funding the CWSRF at the FY 2011 enacted levels. While this amount is still not enough to address the long list of needs, it is an amount that will allow meaningful water quality projects to move forward nationwide - providing jobs and environmental benefit.

NACWA represents the interests of nearly 300 municipal clean water agencies nationwide. ASIWPCA represents the nation's state and interstate water quality regulators, responsible for implementation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in co-regulator status with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). States are currently facing an immediate backlog of \$28 billion in municipal wastewater projects as reported in their FY 2011 Intended Use Plans. The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) latest infrastructure report card gave the nation's water infrastructure a D-, the lowest of any category. A recent EPA report warned that without significant investments in water and wastewater infrastructure, the nation risks losing water quality gains made since the passage of the 1972 CWA.

We must not let this occur. The citizens of our nation rely on states and municipalities to provide them clean water, a healthy environment, and water resources for their recreational, consumptive, and aesthetic values. Without federal investment, we risk further economic and environmental peril. For every \$1 billion invested in clean water, over 40,000 jobs are created, making it critical during this economic downturn that funding to the SRFs remain robust. Doing so will ensure municipalities and states that the federal government continues to be a reliable, long-term partner in meeting the nation's clean water needs.

Sincerely,

Ken Kirk
Executive Director
NACWA

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
Executive Director and General Counsel
ASIWPCA

Cc: All Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations