

May 13, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As the Senate works to reduce the deficit, it is important that we provide continued support to programs like the Clean Water (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) that create jobs, repair crumbling infrastructure and protect public health. These programs invest in short- and long-term improvements in states and communities across the nation, providing significant environmental, economic and public health benefits.

Funding for water infrastructure is greatly needed and justified. It is well documented that our nation's water infrastructure is reaching a tipping point. Each day, the condition of our water infrastructure results in significant losses and damages from broken water and sewer mains, sewage overflows, and other symptoms of water infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life cycle. The American Society of Civil Engineers' latest infrastructure report card gave the nation's water infrastructure a D-, the lowest of any category. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates \$187.9 billion in wastewater needs and \$334.8 billion in drinking water needs over the next 20 years.

Investments in water infrastructure provide significant economic benefits to the economy and enjoy a strong return on investment. The U.S. Conference of Mayors notes that each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. The National Association of Utility Contractors estimates that one billion dollars invested in water infrastructure can create over 26,000 jobs. In addition, the Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the local water and sewer industry creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries. As you can see, this is a highly leveraged Federal investment that results in significant job and economic benefits for every dollar spent.

Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran
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It is critical that the federal government remains a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs. Therefore, we urge your continued support for investments in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

United States Senator

United States Senator

United States Senator

United States Senator

United States Senator

United States Senator

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