

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2013

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

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

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As the Senate Appropriations Committee develops spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2014, we strongly urge you to provide significant funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), consistent with appropriations in recent fiscal years. The Environmental Protection Agency's FY 2014 budget request – \$1.095 billion for the CWSRF and \$817 million for the DWSRF – represents a \$472 million decrease from the most recently enacted levels. It is critically important to provide the most robust possible federal investment in our nation's safe and clean water infrastructure, even as we work toward deficit reduction. Each dollar invested helps to create jobs, repair crumbling water and wastewater infrastructure, and protect public health and environmental quality in our States.

A continued federal commitment to funding for water and wastewater infrastructure is needed and justified. The State Revolving Fund programs invest in short- and long-term improvements in states and communities across the nation, providing significant environmental, economic and public health benefits. It is well documented that our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure is reaching a tipping point. Each day, the condition of our infrastructure results in significant losses and damages from broken water and sewer mains, sewage overflows, and other problems due to 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 and wastewater infrastructure a D-, the lowest of any category. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates \$187.9 billion in wastewater needs and \$334.8 billion in drinking water needs over the next 20 years.

Investments in water and wastewater infrastructure provide significant economic benefits economic benefits to our communities. The U.S. Conference of Mayors reports that each public dollar invested in water and wastewater 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. The Department of Commerce estimates that

each job created in the local water and wastewater industry creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries. These are highly leveraged Federal investments that result in significant job and economic benefits for every dollar spent.

Considering the importance of water and wastewater infrastructure to the well-being of the American people and to our economy, it is critical that the federal government remains a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs. Now more than ever, the federal government has a crucial role to play in supporting our nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs. We therefore urge your continued robust investment in the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

Sincerely,

Ben Cardin

Mike Crayco

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Mary K. Brown

B. J. Sanders

Lyndie Wick

Ron Wyden

Paul Sen

James M. Heckle

Angus King

Chris Coons

John Hoven

Tommy Baldwin

Rebecca Stenow

Ben Ray

Jim Johnson

Jon Tustin

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Richard Blumenthal

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Maria Cantwell

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Robert M. Henry

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