

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

April 8, 2014

Dear Chairman Reed and Senator Murkowski:

As the Senate Appropriations Committee develops spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2015, 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 2015 budget request -- \$1.018 billion for the CWSRF and \$757 million for the DWSRF -- represents a \$581 million decrease from FY14 enacted budget. 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' 2013 infrastructure report card gave the nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure a "D".

The American Water Works Association estimates that there are 240,000 drinking water main breaks every year. AWWA estimates the cost to replace our nation's crumbling drinking water infrastructure will be more than \$1 trillion over the next 25 years. Maintaining a state of good repair of our nation's drinking water infrastructure is critical to protecting public health by ensuring reliable delivery of safe drinking water to millions of Americans.

Investments in water and wastewater infrastructure provide significant economic benefits economic benefits to our communities. 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,