

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to support the proven success and effectiveness of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) in our communities. As you develop the Fiscal Year 2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request your support for critical funding for the SRFs.

All too frequently do incidents of combined sewer overflows into rivers and streams and water main breaks in the nation's largest cities impact our local and national economy. Through the SRFs investment programs, states provide loans to local communities or utilities to support upgrades and replacements of water distribution pipelines, treatment plants, sewer lines, and other similar infrastructure. This funding is critical as it helps communities maintain safe and effective water infrastructure and affords states the flexibility to fund their highest-priority projects. This funding provides a critical and urgent investment to address overburdened and aging sanitary sewers and water treatment plants nationwide.

The need for this investment in our water infrastructure is without question, and we appreciate the discussion for a variety of approaches to address our nation's growing water and wastewater infrastructure problems. The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) 2013 comprehensive assessment of our nation's major infrastructure, **a D rating**, documents that U.S. drinking water and wastewater infrastructure is in poor condition with many elements approaching the end of their service life. Moreover, according to their findings, a large portion of the system exhibits significant deterioration, with condition and capacity under strong risk of failure. Failures are costly: by one U.S. Geological Survey estimate, the value of lost water from water main breaks is \$2.6 billion annually.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) latest national assessment of public water system infrastructure, our nation has a twenty-year capital improvement need of \$384.2 billion in order for water systems to provide safe drinking water to the public. An additional \$298 billion is needed for wastewater infrastructure.


About 60 percent of this infrastructure need is associated with pipe replacement, and there continues to be a gap between estimated needs and funding, particularly for small communities, along with a broader need for cities to maintain, upgrade, and expand infrastructure.

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, we are concerned about rescissions to unobligated balances for these critical programs. High bacteria levels found in streams, rivers, and lakes make those waters unsafe for swimming and other recreation, impacting local economies and human health. In March 2013, the EPA released a comprehensive survey examining the health of thousands of stream and river miles across the country, which documented that more than half – 55 percent – are in poor condition for aquatic life, largely due to excessively-high nitrogen and phosphorus levels. Critical funding to these SRFs programs not only helps ensure safer and cleaner water, but is vital to property values, tourism, and recreational and commercial fishing, all of which provide long-term benefits to our economy.

It is important to note that because of the funds' revolving nature, the federal investment can result in the construction of up to four times as many projects over a 20-year period as a one-time grant, according to the EPA. Moreover, according to data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, for every \$1 billion spent on clean water infrastructure in the U.S., 28,500 new jobs are added, \$3.4 billion is added to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and personal income is boosted by \$1.1 billion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to continue the federal commitment to clean, safe water for our community.

Sincerely,



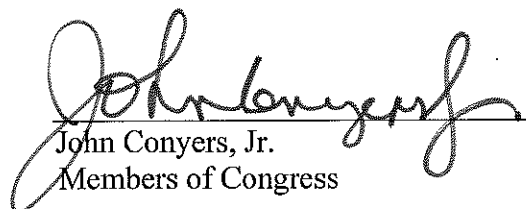
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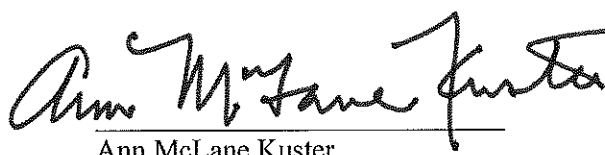
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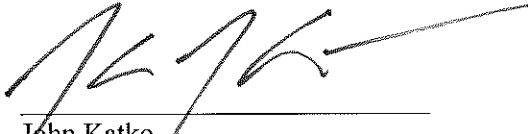
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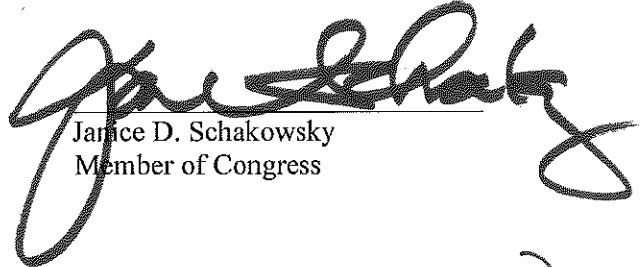
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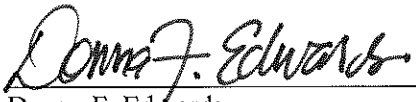
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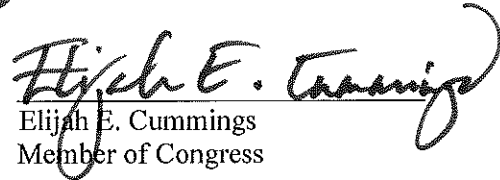
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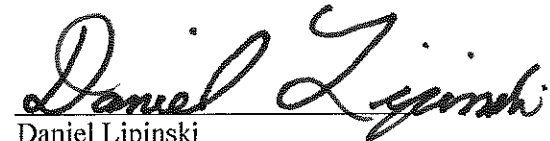
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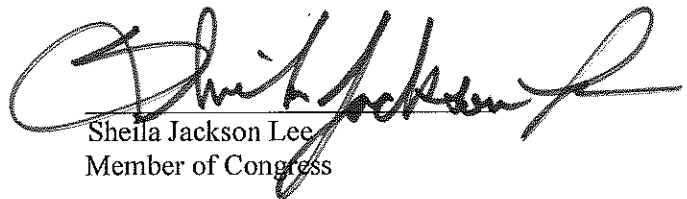
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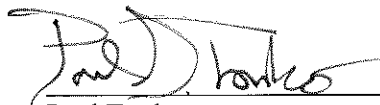
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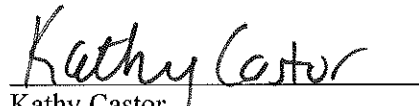
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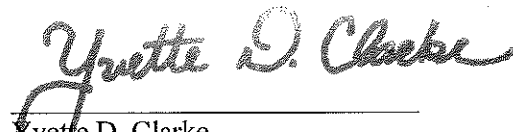

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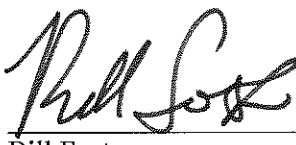

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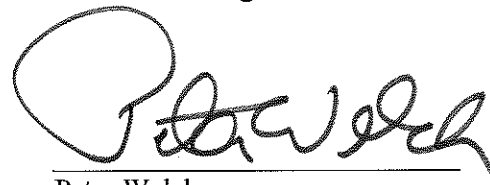

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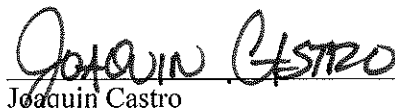

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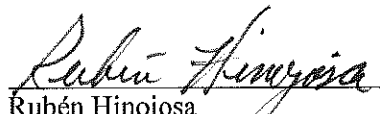

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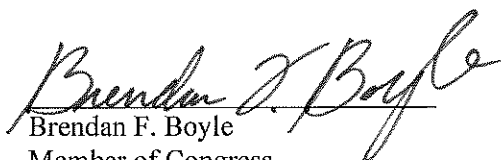

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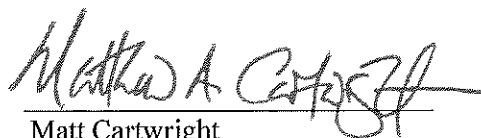

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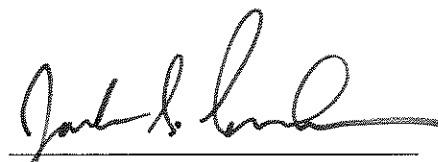

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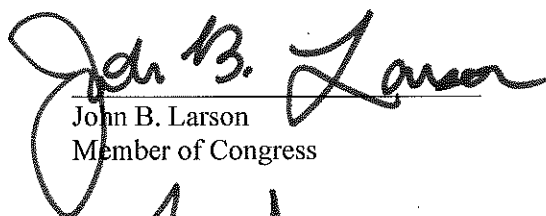

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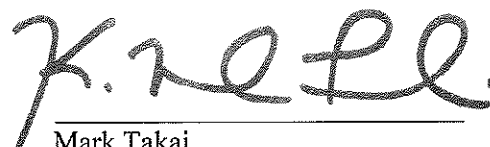

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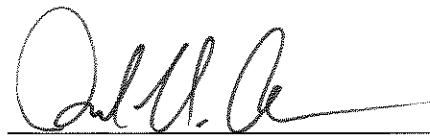

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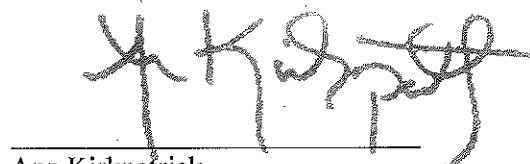

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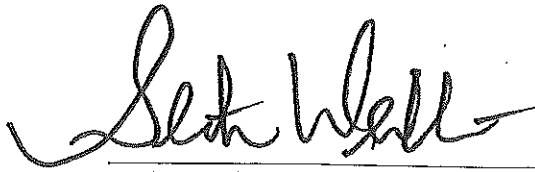

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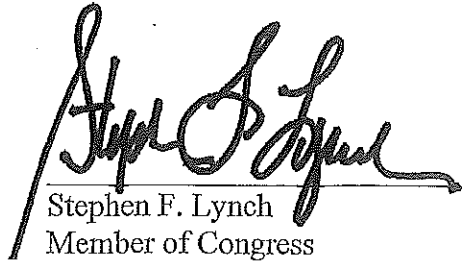

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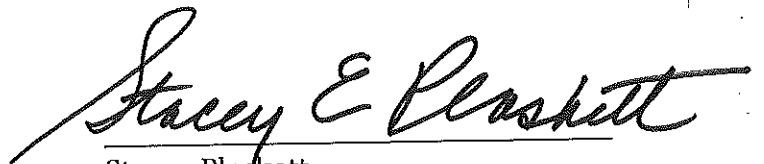
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