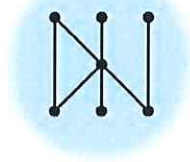


WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK



August 31, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol Building, S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol Building, S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-3801

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6157

Re: WIN Strongly Supports the Restoration of Funding for CWA and SDWA SRFs

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey,

The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), a coalition of the nation's leading construction, engineering, municipal, public works, water and wastewater utilities, conservation, labor and manufacturing organizations, strongly supports the restoration of funding for the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Funds to the funding levels in the FY '15 Omnibus Spending Bill. The draconian cuts proposed to our nation's water infrastructure funding programs in the FY '16 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill will impact our economy, our environment and pose a long-term threat to public health.

The United States is facing a water infrastructure funding crisis. Recent studies conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Congressional Budget Office and the Water Infrastructure Network have all placed the shortfall in funding for clean water and drinking water infrastructure at over \$1.3 trillion during the next two decades. Water and wastewater treatment improvements, emplaced in the first part of the 20th Century, stand today as the greatest public health measures that our nation has implemented. Cholera, dysentery, and hepatitis A and B have

been nearly eliminated in our nation. We have only to look abroad to see the importance of our nation's water infrastructure – waterborne pathogens still kill millions of people annually.

The Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds have proven to be among our nation's most effective infrastructure funding tools and to cut the annual appropriation for these programs by over 20% makes neither economic nor environmental sense. Since the inception of the Clean Water SRF Program in 1987 and the Safe Drinking Water SRF in 1995, States have made more than 46,000 loans, totaling over 120 B to assist communities in the construction of critical water infrastructure. Remarkably, of these 46,000 loans, no community has defaulted and only a few have made late payments according to EPA officials. The Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF Programs have a track record of effectiveness and accountability that warrants greater Federal investment – not dramatic cuts.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request to restore funding for our nation's critical Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water infrastructure -- infrastructure that touches the lives of every American, every day.

Sincerely,

The WIN Executive Committee

American Council of Engineering Companies, American Public Works Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Associated General Contractors of America, International Union of Operating Engineers, National Association Clean Water Agencies, National Rural Water Association, the Vinyl Institute, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters