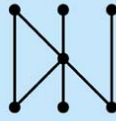


WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK



November 18, 2015

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chair
Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chair
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: WIN's Strong Support for WIFIA "Fix" in the Highway Bill

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Shuster and Ranking Members Boxer and DeFazio:

The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), a coalition of the nation's leading construction, engineering, municipal, conservation, public works, labor and manufacturing organizations, strongly supports the inclusion of provisions in the Transportation Bill Conference Report to "Fix" the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) provisions first authorized in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. Specifically, WIN calls upon the Conferees to adopt Section 15003 "Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation" of the DRIVE Act as part of the Final Transportation Bill Conference Report. This measure repeals a limitation on the utilization of municipal bonds in concert with WIFIA funds to finance drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. This limitation on the use of municipal bonds as a financing mechanism has been a significant impediment to the use of WIFIA as a financing tool for water infrastructure projects across the nation. Increasing the availability of innovative financing for water infrastructure through the adoption of Section 15003 of the DRIVE Act makes eminent economic and environmental sense.

The WIFIA Program, modeled after the TIFIA Program, represents an important step toward addressing water infrastructure financing challenges facing communities in every Congressional District. WIFIA was designed to provide financing for up to 49 percent of a drinking water or wastewater infrastructure project, limiting the tools that communities can use to finance the remaining balance of a water infrastructure project is costing our country jobs and hampering efforts to provide our citizens safe and clean water.

Again, WIN strongly supports the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation provisions included in the DRIVE Act and urges you to include this critical infrastructure finance measure in the Transportation Bill Conference Report.

Sincerely,

The WIN Executive Committee

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), American Public Works Association (APWA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), National Association Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), National Rural Water Association (NRWA), United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (The United), and the Vinyl Institute (VI)

cc: House and Senate Transportation Bill Conferees