

NACWA Urges Support for a Clean Water Trust Fund

NACWA urges support for the creation of a dedicated source of funding for wastewater infrastructure investments to ensure that communities can meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act (CWA). A Clean Water Trust Fund, similar to those that finance highways and airports, would establish a new revenue stream to supplement existing local and state investment to address the backlog of clean water projects.

NACWA Supports House Legislation to Create a Clean Water Trust Fund

H.R. 3145, *The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011*, reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program and would establish a trust fund to ensure that the federal government remains a partner with communities in meeting CWA obligations. Congressman Tim Bishop (D-N.Y.) introduced the bill and cosponsors include Congressmen Steven LaTourette (R-Ohio), Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.), and Tom Petri (R-Wis.).

Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), a consistent champion on behalf of a clean water trust fund, is poised to introduce a trust fund bill devoted completely to clean water infrastructure in mid-April, 2012. NACWA strongly urges Members of Congress to support both pieces of legislation and work with us to establish a dedicated, sustainable source of investment for the nation's infrastructure via a trust fund.

Water Infrastructure – The Need Continues to Grow

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate a \$500 billion investment gap for water and wastewater infrastructure over the next twenty years. It must be noted, however, that the Agency's needs surveys only considers projects that would be eligible for SRF funding. A recent study by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) revealed that the nation's need to reinvest in drinking water infrastructure alone, actually totals about \$1 trillion over the next 25 years. Clean water needs roughly parallel that.
- These needs are widespread throughout the nation. Communities in every state face rising sewer and drinking water rates as well as lost revenues and increased costs stemming from service disruptions, broken water mains, sewage overflows and scarcity of water supply. All of this is occurring at a time when municipal budgets are stretched thin and households are struggling to make ends meet.

Investments in Clean Water Make Sense for the Economy, Environment and Public Health

- Investments in water and wastewater infrastructure provide substantial economic benefits to communities. The U.S. Conference of Mayors reports that each public dollar invested in water or wastewater infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) estimates that \$1 billion invested in water and wastewater infrastructure can create over 26,000 jobs.

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