

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James P. Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

We write to reiterate our support for the proven success and effectiveness of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) in our communities. As you develop the Fiscal Year 2014 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request your support for critical funding for the SRFs.

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 just from water main breaks is \$2.6 billion annually. Moreover, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest survey of capital improvement needs for public water systems indicated that water systems need to invest \$334.8 billion on drinking water infrastructure improvements over 20 years to ensure the provision of safe water compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act regulations and security-related needs. 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.

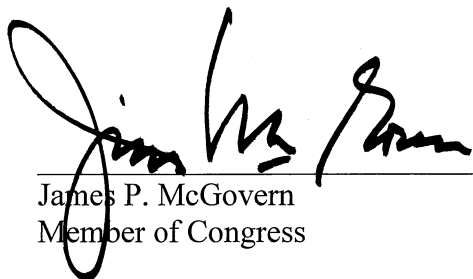
Too frequent incidents of combined sewer overflows into rivers and streams, as well as water main breaks in the nation's largest cities, impact our local and national economies. Through the SRFs investment programs, states provide loans to local communities or utilities to support upgrades and replacements 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. Especially as many sanitary sewers and water treatment plants nationwide are overburdened, deteriorating, and aging, this funding provides a critical and urgent investment.

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, we are concerned about rescissions to unobligated balances for these critical programs, especially in

light of the overwhelming need for water infrastructure investment. 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, the EPA, in its first comprehensive survey looking at the health of thousands of stream and river miles across the country, documented more than half – 55 percent – in poor condition for aquatic life, largely due to excessively-high nitrogen and phosphorus levels, resulting in nutrient pollution. 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. Importantly, 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 National Association of Clean Water Agencies, **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.**

We realize our national water infrastructure needs far surpass feasible levels of funding through the annual appropriations process. The Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs remain key tools for pollution prevention, economic growth, and public health and therefore we urge you to maintain critical funding levels to support this work across the country. Thank you for your consideration of this request to continue the federal commitment to clean, safe water for our communities.

Sincerely,



---

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



---

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Gorman

Matthew A. Cadoret

Jim H

Barbara

W. J. Nash

Jane Per

Lois Frankel

Elizabeth H. Esty

Alan Lowenthal

Tullis Gabbard

Fuh Veb

Benny Heck

~~James H. ...~~ VA-114

James Hahn

Tim Bj

Lilli R. Katz

Mike Dyer

Michelle Dyer Hish

Kathy Casto

Jim Langevin

John L. ...

Ben M. ...

John P. ...

R. E.

St. I. ...

Lawrence Slaughter

Paul W. ...

John ...

Charles ...

Alce ...

Anna ...

John ...

Chaka ...

Peter ...

Eight ...

Lucas ...

Keith ...

Rubin ...

Mr. ...

Howard ...

Dave Lockhart

Ray Peterson

Carol Shea-Power

Jane Haffner

Michael Michael

Bea Wittgen

Niki Sangar

Steph S. Lynd

Col: CD

Judd Radler

Tom Peters

Tomy Cardenas

Judy Chu

List of Co-Signers:

Rep. Timothy H. Bishop  
Rep. Michael E. Capuano  
Rep. Tony Cárdenas  
Rep. André Carson  
Rep. Matthew Cartwright  
Rep. Kathy Castor  
Rep. Judy Chu  
Rep. Howard Coble  
Rep. Gerry Connelly  
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.  
Rep. Jim Costa  
Rep. Elijah Cummings  
Rep. Diana DeGette  
Rep. John Dingell  
Rep. Mike Doyle  
Rep. Keith Ellison  
Rep. Elizabeth Esty  
Rep. Chaka Fattah  
Rep. Lois Frankel  
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard  
Rep. John Garamendi  
Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Rep. Janice Hahn  
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings  
Rep. Joe Heck  
Rep. Brian Higgins  
Rep. Rubén Hinojosa  
Rep. Jared Huffman  
Rep. Steve Israel  
Rep. Bill Keating  
Rep. Jim Langevin  
Rep. Sandy Levin  
Rep. David Loebsack  
Rep. Alan Lowenthal  
Rep. Stephen F. Lynch  
Rep. Michael Michaud  
Rep. Gwen Moore  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Rep. Rick Nolan  
Rep. Gary Peters  
Rep. Collin C. Peterson  
Rep. Thomas Petri  
Rep. Pedro Pierluisi  
Rep. Charles B. Rangel

Rep. John P. Sarbanes  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky  
Rep. Carol Shea-Porter  
Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Rep. Paul D. Tonko  
Rep. Niki Tsongas  
Rep. Filemon Vela  
Rep. Timothy J. Walz  
Rep. Peter Welch