



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2017

Media Contact: Travis Loop, 703.684.2465, tloop@wef.org

Water Environment Federation Urges Congress to Protect Funding for Water Research

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is urging Congress to protect funding for federal research that is critical to addressing challenges facing the nation’s water resources.

WEF requests funding be increased or at least maintained for water research programs at the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, National Science Foundation, and Bureau of Reclamation.

“Funding for water science and technology research is essential to the continued protection of public health and the environment,” said Eileen O’Neill, Executive Director of WEF. “Continued research funding is critical to the quality of life for communities across the U.S., and the business and economic advantages it gives our nation in the global marketplace.”

Population growth, aging infrastructure, increasing urbanization, and extreme events are increasing threats to water quality and demand on water resources. Research can increase understanding of the potential impacts of these on public health and water quality. It can also lead to new and improved methods to mitigate health risks and damage to the environment, enhanced resource recovery (nutrients, energy, and water) from wastewater treatment, provision of sufficient water for energy and food, opportunities for U.S. companies in a growing global marketplace, and cost-effective infrastructure repair and replacement.

“WEF urges Congress and the Administration, through increased funding and programmatic support, to bolster efforts in the water sector to develop innovative technologies and approaches,” said O’Neill.

Read the [letter to Congress](#)

###

About WEF

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 34,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.