

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
585 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representatives DeFazio, Napolitano, Young, and Katko:

We are writing in strong support of the *Water Quality Protection and Jobs Creation Act of 2019*. As the leading organizations advocating on behalf of the nation's clean water sector, we are very encouraged by this bipartisan legislation. By authorizing approximately \$23.5 billion in direct infrastructure investment between Fiscal Years 2020 and 2024 in America's wastewater, stormwater, and water reuse infrastructure, the legislation will catalyze greater investment in critical infrastructure and help communities around the country address local water quality issues.

As you know, our nation's water infrastructure faces significant infrastructure investment needs, with utilities challenged to maintain and upgrade aging infrastructure, comply with federal obligations, protect public health and serve as environmental stewards in their community – all while maintaining affordable rates for critical services. Local ratepayers overwhelmingly fund these investments, as the federal share of water and wastewater infrastructure investment has sunk below 5 percent. This is a significantly lower cost-share than other forms of critical infrastructure, creating unique challenges for the water sector.

Your legislation will strengthen the federal funding partnership and help address critical infrastructure investment needs by:

- Reauthorizing at \$4 billion per year the successful Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, the primary source of Federal financing assistance for clean water infrastructure. The CWSRF is an important tool used across all 50 states and in communities of all sizes to help communities make investments more affordably.
- Extending the authorization of Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants at \$225 million per year through 2024. This program provides a rare opportunity for federal grants to communities for critical local clean water infrastructure.

- Reauthorizing Alternative Water Source Pilot Projects to support innovation in addressing unique local challenges in water supply and water quality. Practices involving the use of recycled wastewater effluent, captured stormwater, and other alternative water sources help communities build resilience and enhance water management.
- Reauthorizing Watershed Pilot Projects, to assist in the development of innovative, integrated watershed-based approaches to addressing water quality issues.
- Reauthorizing Sec. 106 grants which assist States in implementing their water pollution control programs in accordance with the Clean Water Act.

America's future economic strength depends on investments made today in clean water infrastructure. Thank you for your dedication to addressing these challenges. We believe the *Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019* can help facilitate these critical investments in water infrastructure and we urge its swift consideration and passage.

Sincerely,

National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)
WateReuse Association
US Water Alliance
Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), Inc.
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
American Public Works Administration (APWA)