

October 24, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Senate Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Senate Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
House Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
House Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

As Congress begins to negotiate final appropriations legislation for FY 2020, the water sector strongly urges your support for continued federal investment in critical water infrastructure funding assistance programs. These programs are vital for protecting public health and the environment, promoting economic growth, and ensuring states and local communities can meet their increasing demands for clean and safe water.

In particular, we strongly urge you to adopt the following funding levels:

- No less than \$1,784,000,000 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, as detailed in the House Interior & Environment Subcommittee bill;
- No less than \$1,300,000,000 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, as detailed in the House Interior & Environment Subcommittee bill;
- \$73 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, as detailed in the Senate Interior & Environment Subcommittee bill.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that our nation's drinking water and clean water infrastructure will require nearly \$750 billion in investment over the next 20 years just to maintain current levels of service, with some estimating the need at over \$1 trillion. State and local dollars fund the vast majority of water and wastewater investment in the U.S., but a strong federal partnership is essential. Therefore, we strongly believe that EPA's FY20 appropriation must provide adequate funding that reflects the true water infrastructure needs across the country.

Core programs such as the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program help finance critical drinking water and clean water projects, many of which are in communities that need access to low-interest loans in order to not overburden lower income ratepayers and remain in compliance with

federal and state regulations. These programs are also important for communities pursuing water reuse projects to address pressing water resource challenges.

Additionally, our organizations supported passage of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018, which was signed into law one year ago with several new grant programs that will, if funded, directly assist communities working to address challenges that are considered national water infrastructure priorities. We respectfully request the following amounts for these critical programs: \$20 million, as provided in the House bill, to facilitate lead pipe replacement; \$1 million, as provided in the Senate bill, for water workforce development; \$90 million, as provided in the House bill, for investing in sewer overflow and stormwater infrastructure needs; \$4 million, as provided in the House bill, for increasing water system resiliency and sustainability; and \$4 million, as provided in the House bill, for accelerating innovative water technologies.

We greatly appreciate your attention to these important programs in the 2020 fiscal year. Please contact any of our organizations to further discuss any of these issues and funding requests.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Water Resources Association
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
US Water Alliance
Water Environment Federation
WateReuse Association