



February 14, 2024

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Simpson, Ranking Member Pingree, Chairman Merkley, and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As you work to finalize the FY24 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, the following undersigned organizations, which represent a broad cross-section of the water sector, urge Congress to provide robust funding for EPA's drinking water, wastewater, and water recycling infrastructure programs.

The infusion of funding provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 does not negate the need for strong regular, annual appropriations. EPA has found that the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems require more than \$750 billion worth of improvements over the coming 20 years, just to maintain current levels of service. The federal government must continue to address this funding gap by ensuring robust investment in the nation's water systems in FY24 and in the future.

**Although our organizations recognize the budget realities this year, the final appropriations legislation must reflect the importance of water infrastructure investment and fund these programs at the highest possible levels.** These funding amounts will ensure the water sector can continue to advance its mission of providing affordable, safe, and clean water to all.

To this end, we request you to provide at least the following amounts for EPA's water infrastructure programs in FY24:

- **\$3 billion each for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs)**, representing the programs' full authorized amounts in FY24. The SRFs are EPA's core water and wastewater infrastructure programs, and support capitalization grants to states that in turn offer low-interest loans to communities carrying out water

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infrastructure projects that benefit public health or facilitate compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. Given the centrality of the SRFs to facilitating water and wastewater infrastructure investment from coast to coast, we call on you to fully fund the programs this year.

- **\$76 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program**, which offers competitive, low-cost financing to help communities pay for largescale drinking water and wastewater projects that are generally expected to cost at least \$20 million. Because WIFIA funds are leveraged, and the program therefore only requires a small appropriation in relation to its potential loan capacity, this investment would support several billion dollars in direct credit assistance for water projects nationwide.
- **\$5 million for the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program**, which was authorized in IJA to help drinking water systems prepare to withstand the effects of natural disasters and cyber threats. Eligible projects include those that conserve water or increase the efficiency in its use, modify or relocate infrastructure threatened by natural hazards or extreme weather, or deploy measures to reduce a water system's cyber vulnerabilities.
- **\$25 million for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water grants**, which offer direct funding to help communities reduce risks associated with lead in drinking water by fully replacing lead service lines or conducting inventory inspections to determine where lead pipes are located.
- **\$30.5 million for the Voluntary School and Childcare Program Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program**, which offers direct funds to local educational or daycare facilities to remediate the threat of lead in drinking water within their own buildings, such as replacing outdated drinking water fountains.
- **\$50 million for Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants**, which provide grant dollars that can assist municipal clean water utilities and communities in more affordably managing combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, and capturing stormwater flows for water reuse.
- **\$6 million for the Water Workforce Infrastructure Grants Program**, which supports innovative efforts to develop tomorrow's utility workforce and ensure long-term stability in the water sector.
- **\$182 million for Section 319 Nonpoint Source grants**, which support watershed solutions to pollution driven by nonpoint sources, the largest outstanding driver of water quality impairments.

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- **\$5 million for the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants (33 U.S.C. 1300)**, which Congress authorized in the IIJA to help communities build long-term sustainable water supplies while protecting public health and the environment. Through this competitive grants program, EPA will provide 50 percent cost-share grants to water resource development agencies to engineer, design, construct and test alternative water source systems, including water reuse and stormwater reuse systems.
- **Robust funding for EPA's Geographic Programs**, which support critical watershed-based investments in the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound, Long Island Sound, Gulf of Mexico, South Florida, Lake Champlain, Lake Pontchartrain, Southern New England Estuaries, Columbia River Basin, and other geographic areas.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to continued work to ensure that water infrastructure funding is prioritized in the 2024 fiscal year and beyond.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
US Water Alliance  
Water Environment Federation  
WaterReuse Association

cc: The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Susan Collins