

August 7, 2026

Senator Shelly Moore Capito
Chair, Environment and Public Works
Committee
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member, Environment and Public
Works Committee
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Representative Sam Graves
Chair, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Capito, Chair Graves, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Ranking Member
Larsen,

We, the undersigned organizations, representing over 250,000 state and local
governments, agencies, water utilities, labor unions, companies, and engineering and
public works professionals nationwide, would like to thank you for introducing and passing
both the House and Senate's *Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA, H.R.
9497, S. 4949)* out of Committee.

Well maintained water infrastructure is an important part of protecting human health and
keeping our economy moving. For close to 85 years, Congress has provided funding for vital
infrastructure programs to address water quality challenges and protect our nation's water
resources. These long-standing programs are essential to the strength of our communities,
and we strongly value the support the federal government provides through its biennial
WRDA bills. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) authorizations of projects and
studies are important to navigation, flood protection and ecosystem restoration in
communities and the water infrastructure programs under the U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA) are essential for maintaining reliable access to affordable
financing and providing clean and safe water for residents and businesses.

The federal government must maintain its high level of investment across all its grant and
financing programs. We support provisions in the Senate bill that reauthorize long-standing
EPA programs that are critical to delivering safe, clean water to communities and
provisions in both bills including, but not limited to:

- Reauthorizing and increasing the funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water
State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
(WIFIA).
- Maintaining Congress' commitment to helping communities remove contaminants,
including lead and forever chemicals from water systems.

- Reaffirming that structural and nonstructural approaches to water resource management are part of the Corps' core mission and clarifying the roles of the Corps and non-Federal partners in these projects.
- Supporting the long-term growth of the water sector workforce.

When communities are able to leverage low-interest loans from the SRFs, they save on average an estimated \$960 million in interest costs over the life of the loan and can cut the cost of financing by more than 50 percent.¹ By reauthorizing these programs at levels proposed in S. 4949, these projects would generate \$79.3 billion in economic output, contribute \$42.7 billion to the national GDP, and support nearly 305,000 jobs.

We urge Congress to enact a final WRDA bill before the end of the year that includes these critical programs and provides robust, increased authorization for these essential EPA water infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,

Accelerator for America Action
 American Council of Engineering Companies
 American Public Works Association
 American Society of Civil Engineers
 Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.
 Association Metropolitan Water Agencies
 Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
 California Association of Sanitation Agencies
 Clean Water Construction Coalition
 Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities
 Environmental Council of the States
 Government Finance Officers Association
 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
 International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
 Laborers International Union of North America
 Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
 National Association of Clean Water Agencies
 National Association of Counties
 National Association of Manufacturers
 National Association of Regional Councils
 National Association of Water Companies
 National Conference of State Legislatures
 National League of Cities
 National Rural Water Association

¹ [Testimony](#) of Jeff Walker on behalf of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (March 11, 2025)

National Utility Contractors Association
National Water Resources Association
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Pittsburg Water
Protect our Kids from Lead
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
Stantec
U.S. Conference of Mayors
US Water Alliance
Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association, Inc.
Water Collaborative Delivery Association
Water Environment Federation
WaterReuse Association

CC:

House Speaker Mike Johnson
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
Senate Majority Leader John Thune
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
Representative Brett Guthrie, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Representative Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works