



June 6, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

As you begin drafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to fully fund critical water infrastructure programs and to maintain these investments that strengthen public health, support economic growth, and ensure that water remains accessible and affordable.

Our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure programs are essential to the health and wellbeing of every American and the basic functioning of our society. Every individual has a need for access to clean drinking water, sanitary wastewater, and stormwater services. Water systems' mission is to provide these services, ensuring that the water delivered to households across the country is safe, clean, and affordable.

As Congress works to develop FY26 spending levels for EPA, we urge you to fully fund core water infrastructure programs like the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), as well as several targeted water infrastructure grant programs that Congress has authorized in recent years.

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June 6, 2025
Page 2

Any cuts to these programs, such as those that were proposed in the President's initial budget request, would impact water affordability for many households across the country. During a time when many Americans are already struggling with the cost of living, this would create a water crisis that utilities cannot solve without federal assistance, as systems would be forced to defer urgent projects or increase water rates. An analysis by Banner Public Affairs estimates that the President's budget request would lead to nearly 40,000 lost jobs nationwide and \$6.47 billion in reduced economic output.¹ Meanwhile, the analysis reports that every \$1 million invested in water infrastructure supports 15.7 good-paying American jobs.

In the weeks since the budget request release, we have been heartened to see members of Congress raise concerns during the budget hearings, and question how local utilities and communities could continue providing these critical water services to their constituents without federal support. Water systems have already been chronically underfunded, as EPA data shows that the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems face more than \$1.2 trillion capital improvement need over the next 20 years to maintain current levels of service.^{2, 3} **Failing to adequately fund these programs in FY26 will threaten water systems' ability to carry out their core missions and deliver basic services.**

Each of these programs is critical to sustaining utilities, protecting public health, and promoting economic growth. Again, we urge you to protect the SRFs and other EPA water infrastructure programs by providing funding at their authorized levels in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill. We appreciate your attention to this important issue and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Public Works Association
American Water Works Association
Association of California Water Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
National Water Resources Association
United States Conference of Mayors
WaterReuse Association
Water Environment Federation

¹ https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5f8d9b0df18924408870e070/6815343236b12b9e4bd34ac4_493f0013ae3d188c08f811351579e17a_Down%20the%20Drain%20V1.3.pdf

² https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSA_September2023_Final.pdf

³ <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/2022-cwns-report-to-congress.pdf>

CC: The Honorable Susan Collins, The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Tom Cole, The Honorable Rosa DeLauro