



March 4, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

Thank you for your efforts to address the significant needs in our nation's clean water infrastructure by introducing the bipartisan Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019. As members of the Clean Water Council, we are committed to safeguarding a healthy quality of life through sound water infrastructure and fully support this important legislation. Our coalition is made up of national organizations representing underground utility contractors, design professionals, manufacturers, suppliers, labor representatives, construction materials, public works professionals, and other organizations, and our members can speak directly to the benefits that would result from enactment of this legislation.

As wastewater systems continue to age and the costs of compliance with environmental requirements mount, communities face increasing difficulties in paying for needed improvements. At the same time, the federal government has contributed a decreasing share of the total funding provided for water utility infrastructure. Federal spending accounted for just 4% of all spending on water utility infrastructure in 2017. Given that the EPA's most recent assessment found that \$271 billion will be needed to maintain and improve wastewater and stormwater treatment systems over the next twenty years, Congress should not wait any longer to address these challenges.

To this end, we are encouraged to see bipartisan support for reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. This program has played an important role in helping communities pay for necessary infrastructure improvements and has provided over \$126 billion in assistance through 38,441 assistance agreements since its inception in 1987. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act will provide a much needed boost to this program by authorizing \$20 billion over five years.

The investments in our nation's water infrastructure that will be made possible by this legislation will have numerous positive benefits. First and foremost, these investments will lead to better

public health outcomes and protect Americans' quality of life. Specifically, improved wastewater and stormwater systems will help prevent harmful pollution from entering waterways, protect against waterborne disease, and preserve access to recreational opportunities. In addition to health benefits, investment in water infrastructure also generates economic activity and supports high-paying jobs. An estimated 20,003 to 26,669 jobs can result from a national investment of \$1 billion in water infrastructure. These opportunities are spread across the economy with more than one-half of the jobs in industries other than water system construction.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to helping you advance this legislation.

Respectfully,

Members of the Clean Water Council

American Concrete Pipe Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Public Works Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Supply Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association
National Association of Sewer Service Companies
National Utility Contractors Association
Plastics Pipe Institute
Portland Cement Association
Water & Sewer Distributors of America
Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association