



March 1, 2019

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio, Subcommittee Chair Napolitano, Congressman Young and Congressman Katko,

On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities and counties, we thank you for introducing legislation to address our nation's wastewater infrastructure needs. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act will help address the many water infrastructure challenges that communities across the country face.

In particular, we thank you for supporting the reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, which provides capitalization grants to states who, in turn, make low interest loans to local communities and utilities for wastewater infrastructure projects. Moreover, by significantly increasing the authorization level as well as providing full appropriations for the CWSRF program, the federal government will ensure that more communities are able to access funding for projects to improve their wastewater infrastructure, while meeting their Clean Water Act requirements.

Additionally, the bill extends authorization of the sewer overflow control grant program. This will enable communities to better manage their wet weather flows and invest in green infrastructure and water and energy efficiency projects.

Our organizations are strong supporters of the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs, which are essential tools for communities to provide clean and safe water for residents and businesses. Since local governments provide over 95 percent of the total funding for water infrastructure and the nation's growing water infrastructure needs, it is evident that our country must make substantial investments to repair and replace our nation's aging water infrastructure, through the SRF programs, sewer overflow control grants and other programs. We urge Congress to fully fund these critical programs and to also encourage states to provide more SRF grants, negative interest loans and principal forgiveness to small, rural, and disadvantaged communities that are unable to meet their needs solely with loans.

While these programs provide valuable assistance to local governments, we encourage the committee to also consider providing additional tools that offer communities flexibility. Local governments need to be able to partner with their state and the federal government to meet their wastewater and stormwater infrastructure needs in a manner that is also affordable to their citizens. We thank the

committee for its efforts in passing the bipartisan integrated planning legislation last year and would like to continue our work with you to provide additional flexibility and tools to communities who are facing substantial wastewater and stormwater burdens.

Thank you for your leadership on these issues and we look forward to working with you on a long-term solution. Local governments remain committed to meeting the growing water infrastructure needs in our communities. We urge the federal government to remain a committed partner in this important endeavor.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our staff: Judy Sheahan (USCM) at jsheahan@usmayors.org; Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at berndt@nlc.org; or Julie Ufner (NACo) at jufner@naco.org.

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony
Executive Director
National League of Cities



Matthew D. Chase
CEO and Executive Director
National Association of Counties

cc: Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

