March 29, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

Our nation’s clean and safe water infrastructure faces significant investment needs to maintain existing levels of service, support economic growth, and protect public health and the environment. As you develop the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to urge strong appropriations for the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) – critical and proven tools for supporting local investments in water infrastructure. Specifically, we request a doubling of the FY16 SRFs, or a total of $2.8 billion for the Clean Water SRF and $1.8 billion for the Drinking Water SRF. Funding at these levels will help advance critical projects around the country.

During his 2016 Campaign, the President called for tripling of the SRFs. In support of this goal, for FY18 we urge doubled funding relative to the most recently enacted (FY16) levels. This level of support will help communities address the growing infrastructure gap around the country. Just this month, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released its 2017 Infrastructure Report Card. Wastewater received a D+ -- the average grade across all infrastructure types -- and Drinking Water received a D. It was noted that over 56 million more people will be connected to wastewater treatment systems within 20 years, underscoring that clean water investments are needed both to maintain existing infrastructure and quality service but also to support continued growth and development around the country.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s most recent reports to Congress indicated that the U.S. has a twenty-year capital improvement need of $384.2 billion for drinking water and $271 billion for wastewater infrastructure. Industry estimates are even higher, nearing $1 trillion. While these numbers are daunting, it is important to recall that these investments support economic growth and have a strong return on investment. Every $1 invested in water and wastewater infrastructure increases long-term GDP by $6.35, and each job created in water and wastewater supports 3.68 jobs throughout the economy.
With the majority (over 90 percent) of water infrastructure in the U.S. funded by ratepayers and local communities, the SRFs play an important role in ensuring communities have access to affordable financing.

The SRFs are a longstanding and critical tool in the toolbox for States and local communities to make high priority water infrastructure investments. We urge you to support this doubling for FY18 Appropriations.

Thank you,

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

John J. Faso  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

Brian Mast  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Nydia Velazquez  
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress

Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

James Clyburn  
Member of Congress
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
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Alma S. Adams
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Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

John Larson
Member of Congress
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress