Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert Chairman Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies B-308 Rayburn HOB Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Betty McCollum Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies 1016 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

Our nation's clean and safe water infrastructure faces significant investment needs to protect public health and the environment and support economic growth. As you develop the Fiscal Year 2019 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 FY17 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. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's most recent reports to Congress indicate that our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure will require more than \$650 billion in investment over the next 20 years just to maintain current levels of service. Industry estimates the need at over \$1 trillion. The SRFs help address these investment needs and challenges by providing critical funding for drinking water and wastewater projects. With over 90 percent of water infrastructure investment being provided by local ratepayers and communities, the low-interest financing SRF loans provide helps keep local rates affordable. Federal infrastructure investment in water has been a declining share of total water investment for many years as the SRFs and other programs have not been funded at a level that reflects the true national needs, increasing costs of compliance, and emerging threats to water quality and safety.

As Congress works to improve the nation's infrastructure, the SRFs can fill an important role as effective, established tools with bipartisan support and a track record of driving investment in critical infrastructure. With the recently-passed bipartisan budget deal providing a path forward for addressing critical domestic discretionary needs, now is the time to ensure the SRFs are funded at a level that better reflects the true national water infrastructure needs.

Investment in our country's water infrastructure works to provide all Americans with clean and safe water, create jobs and grow the economy, and protect public health and the environment. We urge you to support this doubling of SRF funding in the FY19 appropriations process to help ensure communities have access to affordable funding and financing.

Thank you,

John Katko

Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings Member of Congress

André Carson Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush Member of Congress Carry of Opinio

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Al Green Member of Congress

Luille Roybat allard Lucille Roybal-Allard

Member of Congress

Butterfield

Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Schakowsky ember of Congress

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Jackie Speier

Town Inla

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Rosa DeLauro Member of Congress

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Luis V. Gutiérrez Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Member of Congress

Law Blenam

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Congress Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Stephanie Murphy Member of Congress

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Zoe Lofgren Member of Congress

Jared Huffman



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Member of Congress

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Nanette Diaz Barragán Member of Congress

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Niki Tsongas Member of Congress John Yarmuth Member of Congress

SJO.Cll

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Tel W. In

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Member of Congress

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Tony Cardenas Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski

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Adam Smith (WA-09) Member of Congress

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Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter