

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairwoman
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
1124 Longworth House Office Building
House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

We respectfully write to express our support for Fiscal Year 2020 funding of \$225 million for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program, authorized by section 221 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

Our nation's cities, both large and small, urban and rural, are facing a water infrastructure crisis. In many communities, combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows can result in the discharge of excess wastewater directly a community's streams, rivers, or other water bodies – releasing untreated or partially treated human and industrial waste, toxic materials, and other debris. These discharges can cause human and animal health hazards, water quality impacts, bacterial contamination, aesthetic impacts, algae growth, and reduced oxygen levels in bodies of water. Similarly, discharges of excess stormwater can cause downstream flooding, stream bank erosion, increased turbidity, habitat destruction, and damage to downstream infrastructure.

Sewer overflows and stormwater management are addressed by EPA and the States through the Clean Water Act; however, implementation of control measures and compliance can be very costly. In addition, many communities across the country are turning to water recycling as a way of addressing concerns about the availability of safe and reliable sources of potable and non-potable water in the future, including the capture, treatment, and reuse of stormwater flows.

Congress has provided States and local communities with several options to help finance Clean Water related infrastructure investments, including efforts to address sewer overflows and stormwater. Yet, even with robust funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) – the leading source of Federal wastewater infrastructure financing – many communities and individual ratepayers struggle to afford SRF loan repayments and other financing costs.- As you may know, clean water costs are overwhelmingly borne by local ratepayers and communities, with the federal share of water infrastructure costs coming down from a high of 75 percent in the years following enactment of the Clean Water Act in 1972 to less than 5 percent in recent years.

EPA's Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Control Grant program authorizes federal grant funding to States and municipalities for the planning, design, and construction of treatment works and other measures for combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or stormwater management. The law further requires that at least 20 percent of the funds are utilized towards green infrastructure, water and energy efficient improvements and other environmentally innovative activities. Utilizing green infrastructure, which promotes the natural movement of water, and other equally innovative wet weather management measures is cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly.

The grants authorized by Congress last year provide a structured, effective, and strong source of federal funding that will help our state and local partners move forward on worthwhile projects in a manner that can be more affordable to our communities and ratepayers. It is incumbent that we now fully fund this program.

We thank you for your consideration of this request to fully fund the Clean Water Act's newly reauthorized Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Control Grant program.

Sincerely,



Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



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MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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Steve Chabot
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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Brian Fitzpatrick
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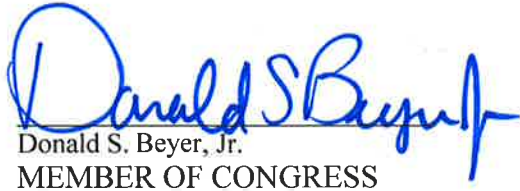
Chris Pappas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



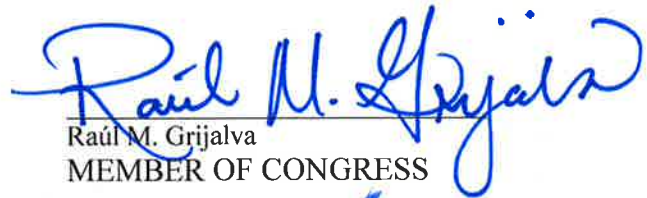
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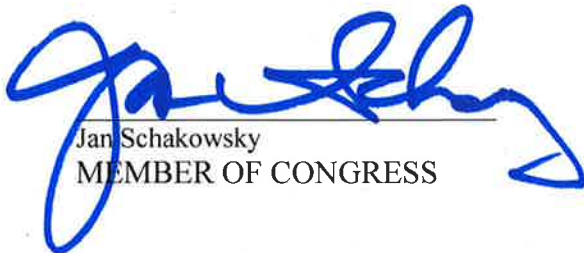
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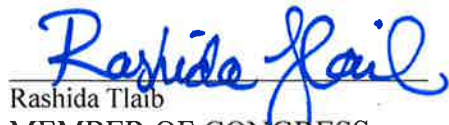
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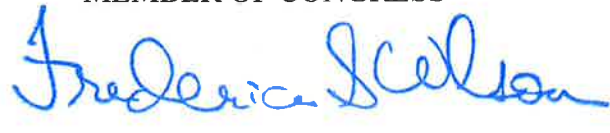

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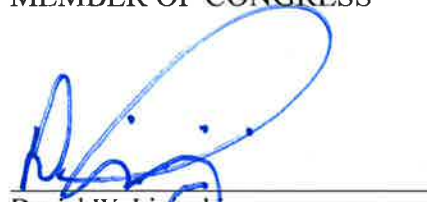

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