Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515 March 29, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum Chair Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable David P. Joyce Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

Communities across the country work day in and day out to improve their local water systems, protect public health and the environment, and support a healthy local economy. As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to urge robust funding for the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) - critical and proven tools for supporting local investments in water infrastructure. Specifically, for FY20 we request at least a doubling of the FY19 enacted amount for a total of \$3.4 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$2.32 billion for the Drinking Water SRF.

Federal investment in our nation's water infrastructure at these funding levels is vital to helping the communities we represent maintain and upgrade water infrastructure—helping ensure that public health and our waterways are protected, federal obligations under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act are met, emerging challenges are addressed, and local jobs and economic growth are supported. Unfortunately, the federal share of our nation's total water infrastructure investment has been in decline for many years, not keeping pace with true national needs. Currently, over 90 percent of the nation's wastewater and drinking water investment comes from local spending.

With the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimating 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, further federal investment is needed more than ever. The SRFs, historically supported by both Democrats and Republicans, provide communities with access to low-interest loans, helping communities continue to build, maintain, and improve water infrastructure. Because the costs of financing local water investment are largely borne by ratepayers, the SRFs help local residents save money. As Congress continues to consider ways to upgrade and improve our nation's aging infrastructure, the SRFs should serve as a critical piece in meeting those objectives for drinking and clean water.

We urge your strong support for the SRFs in FY20 to help improve access to tools and financing to help communities make needed investments in water. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

John Katko

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER Member of Congress

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