Cosign Appropriations Request to Increase Investment in Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRFs

From Rep. Napolitano and Rep. Katko Deadline COB Tuesday, April 27th

To Cosign: Use This Form

For Questions: Contact <u>Joe.sheehy@mail.house.gov</u> with Rep. Napolitano or Tristan.Southard@mail.house.gov with Rep. Katko

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in sending the below letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, advocating for an increase in funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs). We will be requesting a total of \$5 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$3 billion for the Drinking Water SRF. This is an increase from what we requested in FY21 to address the incredible need for water infrastructure investment across the country.

Communities are facing challenges with aging water infrastructure that poses a growing threat to existing levels of service, public health, and our environment. The SRFs are a proven, critical tool for States and local communities to make high priority water infrastructure investments that otherwise may not be feasible.

Longstanding bipartisan support for the SRFs has helped to address the growing infrastructure gaps and investment needed to maintain clean and safe water infrastructure throughout the country. With EPA estimating that national twenty-year capital improvement needs are over \$650 billion for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure combined, it is imperative that we continue to support the effective SRF program, ensuring local communities have access to affordable financing.

We urge you to join us in sending the below letter supporting the SRFs and requesting this funding for fiscal year 2022 appropriations. Please <u>Use This Form</u> to cosign. If you have questions, please contact Joe Sheehy in Congresswoman Napolitano's office <u>joe.sheehy@mail.House.gov</u> or Tristan Southard in Congressman Katko's office at <u>Tristan.Southard@mail.house.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Grace F. Napolitano Member of Congress John Katko Member of Congress The Honorable Chellie Pingree 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 Pingree 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 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to urge robust funding for the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) which are critical and proven tools for supporting local investments in water infrastructure. Specifically, we request a total of \$5 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$3 billion for the Drinking Water SRF in FY2022.

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 FY22 to help improve access to tools and financing to help communities make needed investments in water. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress