Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds Sustain Rhode Island’s Water Infrastructure

$74.5 million – The average annual value of tax-exempt municipal bonds communities across Rhode Island issued between 2011 and 2016 to fund improvements to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

$31.7 million – Additional debt service costs cities and towns in Rhode Island would incur over their payback periods if interest earned on these bonds was fully taxable, a 25 percent increase.*

$17.3 million – Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund assistance the federal government provided to Rhode Island in 2016. Fully taxing municipal bond interest would cost the state nearly twice the value of this year’s SRF assistance.

Affordable investment in Rhode Island’s water infrastructure should not be a consequence of tax reform.

AMWA and NACWA urge you to preserve tax-exempt municipal bonds.

*Based on Bloomberg data assuming uniform $50 million projects with 30-year loan maturities and “AA” credit ratings.