

____, 2020

Dear Representative/Senator _____:

As utility representing [include your service area number] of your constituents in [state/congressional district], I am writing on behalf of our customers at [name of utility] to request that subsequent phases of economic stimulus legislation address the significant economic impacts from the coronavirus pandemic on water and wastewater systems.

Access to clean water plays a critical role in mitigating the spread of the coronavirus. As the nation continues to grapple with the increasingly devastating effects from the coronavirus, clean water utilities around the country are working tirelessly to ensure their customers continue to have safe and reliable water services and to protect the health and safety of their workforce.

However, the economic impacts of coronavirus are expected to be enormous. Decreased revenue from households less able to pay their bills, as well as the sudden drop-off in industrial and business water usage could lead to billions of dollars in lost revenue for water and wastewater systems nationwide. Water systems will incur additional costs for ongoing emergency operations during the course of the pandemic. Without federal assistance, these costs will need be passed on to local customers through higher water rates.

Our utility ... [add local cost projections/economic impacts from pandemic, projected revenue shortfalls due economic disruptions from COVID-19, potential impacts on rates, affordability concerns, actions the utility is taking etc.]

In recognition to this unprecedented situation, we urge you to include the following in coronavirus response legislation:

- Federal assistance to help water and wastewater utilities maintain services to low-income and struggling households during the pandemic;
- Federal assistance to help mitigate lost utility revenues due to sharply reduced water demand. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) estimates that nationwide, public clean water agencies will face a \$12.5 Billion loss of revenue as a result of the pandemic; and
- Inclusion of strong funding for all utility providers, regardless of ownership, through established water infrastructure investment programs like the SRFs, WIFIA, USDA

Rural Development, the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI-WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, and other water infrastructure grant programs to help fuel local economic activity while simultaneously strengthening America's infrastructure.

[Include any potential construction projects, major capital investments etc. your utility could begin working on/creating jobs to help put people back to work if Congress were to include significant funding for water infrastructure in a potential recovery/jobs stimulus bill.]

Water and wastewater professionals are among the nation's essential critical infrastructure workforce who remain on the job to help fight and bring an end to this pandemic. We simply ask Congress to recognize the needs of utilities and provide federal assistance to address ratepayer burdens and make utilities whole for doing their part to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

We thank you for your consideration of the water sectors requests and appreciate all you are doing to help Americans during these challenging times.

Sincerely,