

February 16, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Water Quality and Source Water Protection Funding-A Needed Investment and National Priority

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As Congress finalizes fiscal year 2011 appropriations our organizations urge your support for maintaining important federal assistance needed by states and localities to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. Specifically, we ask for your support of the President's fiscal year 2011 \$2.0 billion budget request for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), \$1.287 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, \$274 million for the Clean Water Act Section 106 program, and \$200 million in funding for Clean Water Act Section 319 program. This funding is critical to protecting public health and the environment while stimulating jobs and economic growth in America's cities and towns.

It is well documented that our nation's water quality is reaching a tipping point. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) latest infrastructure report card gave the nation's water infrastructure a D-, the lowest of any category. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates a \$633 billion shortfall in water infrastructure funding over the next 20 years. As a result, each day the nation suffers significant losses and damages from broken water and sewer mains, sewage overflows, and other symptoms of water infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life.

At the same time, investments in water infrastructure provide significant economic benefits. The U.S. Conference of Mayors notes that each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. A dollar invested in water infrastructure creates more jobs than in any other type of infrastructure. In addition, the Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the local water and sewer industry creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries.

For these reasons, it is critical the federal government remains a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean water needs. This funding represents a fraction of what state and local governments invest annually and is highly productive in the American economy with substantial returns in the form of jobs, economic growth and competitiveness while safeguarding the environment, public health, and quality of life for countless Americans.

Sincerely,



Ken Kirk
Executive Director
National Association of Clean Water Agencies



Diane VanDeHei
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies



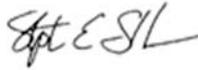
Alexandra Dunn
Executive Director
ASIWPCA



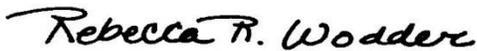
Jeffrey A. Eger
Executive Director
Water Environment Foundation



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American Sportfishing Association
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Catherine Smith
Executive Director
California Association of Sanitation Agencies



Timothy H. Quinn
Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies



Doug Siglin
Federal Affairs Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

CC: All Members of Congress