



October 23, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

The Clean Water Council (CWC) is a coalition of national organizations representing underground utility contractors, engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, labor representatives, construction materials, public works professionals, and other organizations dedicated to safeguarding a healthy quality of life through sound water and wastewater infrastructure. CWC fully supports the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 and we encourage all members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to vote to approve this measure when it is considered on October 29th.

Our nation's underground water and sewer infrastructure ensures that Americans have access to clean drinking water, provides businesses with the resources they need to keep our economy moving, and protects our nation's waterways, beaches, and a range of recreational opportunities. Taken together, well-functioning infrastructure is indispensable to the health of our country. However, as wastewater systems continue to age and the costs of compliance with environmental requirements mount, communities face increasing difficulties in paying for needed infrastructure improvements. At the same time, federal spending accounted for just four percent of all spending on wastewater utility infrastructure in recent years. Given that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most recent assessment found that \$271 billion will be needed to maintain and replace wastewater and stormwater treatment systems over the next twenty years, Congress should not wait any longer to address these challenges.

To this end, we are encouraged to see bipartisan support for reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CW SRF) program. This program has played an important role in helping communities pay for necessary infrastructure improvements and has provided some \$130 billion in assistance since its inception in 1987. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act will provide a much-needed boost to this program by authorizing \$15 billion for the CW SRF over five years.

These investments in our wastewater systems will bring numerous environmental and public health benefits, including preventing harmful pollution from entering waterways, protecting against waterborne disease, and preserving access to natural resources enjoyed during recreational activities. In addition to health benefits, investment in wastewater infrastructure also generates economic activity and supports high-paying jobs. In fact, an estimated 27,000 jobs can come with \$1 billion investment in water and wastewater infrastructure. These opportunities are spread across the economy with more than one-half of the jobs in industries other than water system construction.

The CWC appreciates your leadership in bringing this important legislation for a vote, and we look forward to doing our part to help advance the bill toward passage on the House floor.

Respectfully,

Clean Water Council

American Concrete Pavement Association
American Concrete Pipe Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Public Works Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Supply Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Associated General Contractors
Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials
Laborers' International Union of North America
National Association of Sewer Service Companies
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
National Utility Contractors Association
Nulca – representing utility locating professionals
Plastics Pipe Institute
Portland Cement Association
United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters
Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association