



March 4, 2019

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

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace P. Napolitano
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Chairwoman Napolitano, and Representatives Young and Katko,

On behalf of the Clean Water Construction Coalition, an organization with 28 chapters in 22 states, employing over 11,000 people and committed to securing much-needed funding for the Nation's clean water, I am pleased to convey our support for the enactment of the "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act." The problems facing the Nation's water infrastructure are evident. But, so too are the solutions, as evidenced by this bipartisan effort. Accordingly, we commend Full Committee Chairman DeFazio, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairwoman Napolitano, and Congressmen Young and Katko for their vision and leadership. With its enactment, the "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act" will authorize much needed funding for important water infrastructure projects, thereby supplying critical jobs, enhancing the economy, and ensuring that America's ever-expanding population is serviced for years to come.

Water is a unique and precious resource that is necessary to sustain life--human, animal and plant. As such, it is important for agriculture, transportation, flood control, energy production, recreation, fishing, and municipal and commercial uses. Public opinion consistently and overwhelmingly supports making clean water a national priority and because most Americans believe that they are

page 1 of 2



March 4, 2019
page 2 of 2

willing to pay more to get it. In addition, investments in water infrastructure have a well-documented record of success in job creation in that every \$1 billion invested in water infrastructure construction projects creates over 45,000 jobs.

An integral component of the Nation's clean water program is the State Revolving Fund. The Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) is critical to clean water efforts nationwide and is an extremely cost-effective program. It is also a flexible program, allowing states to choose from a variety of assistance options, including loans, refinancing, purchasing, or guaranteeing local debt and purchasing bond insurance. States can also target resources to their particular environmental needs, including contaminated runoff from urban and agricultural areas, wetlands restoration, groundwater protection estuary management and wastewater treatment.

Unfortunately, for too many years the CWSRF has languished without an authorization and much needed appropriations. The "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act" goes a long way in addressing the former and providing justification for the latter. If this is the most we can do at this time, it is the very least that we must do. The Clean Water Construction Coalition enthusiastically supports and urges its enactment.

Sincerely,

Robert Briant, Jr.

Robert Briant Jr.
Chairman
Clean Water Construction Coalition