



August 16, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Boehner,

The drinking water and wastewater organizations listed below, which serve more than 80 percent of the U.S. population, strongly urge Congress to fund the state revolving loan fund (SRF) drinking water programs at \$965 million and wastewater programs at 1.5 billion for fiscal year 2012. These funding levels would match those set for FY2011.

Reliable drinking water supply and wastewater systems are vital to communities' economic well-being, public safety, public health and the protection of the local environment. Communities across the country want to continue to provide these services at a high level of performance. To do so, requires continuous investment in the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure to renew aging infrastructure and to make the necessary improvements to meet increasing regulatory demands.

Key tools for this investment have been the drinking water and wastewater SRF programs because they provide vitally needed access to low-cost capital for investment in water and wastewater infrastructure. Continued access to low-cost capital is critical to local municipalities and water authorities.

We know that now more than ever the federal government has to be more careful in its expenditures, but investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is literally a critical investment in America's future. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has estimated that every

\$1 invested in water or wastewater infrastructure results in an increase in the nation's gross domestic product by \$6.35.

The drinking water and wastewater communities are united in this effort to see that the United States makes the investments necessary to maintain its high level of water and wastewater services that protect public health and the environment.

We offer to continue to work with Congress in this effort.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Rural Water Association
Water Environment Federation

cc/U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Senate

The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency