

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2008

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman  
The Honorable Wayne Allard, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Allard:

We respectfully request that you include \$1.35 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and \$850 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) in the fiscal year 2009 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. While we recognize that the Subcommittee will face difficult decisions in allocating resources, we believe investment in these programs will bring substantial returns for the nation.

These vital programs provide funding to capitalize state clean water and drinking water loan programs which in turn fund water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management, as well as funding public water system infrastructure improvement projects. This funding is critical to helping communities continue upgrading their water infrastructure to meet Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

The need in this area is without question. A report by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that over the 20-year period of 2000-2019, the total projected funding gap for Clean Water and Drinking Water infrastructure will be \$534 billion. However, this estimate assumed level funding for the program. In its FY 2009 budget, the Administration requested \$555 million for the Clean Water SRF – nearly a 50 percent cut since 2006 – and \$842 million for the Drinking Water SRF. Continued cuts to the SRF programs will further exacerbate water infrastructure project backlogs.

In January 2008, the EPA also released a report showing the documented – not just projected – publicly-owned water infrastructure need. This most recent estimate showed a documented need of \$202.5 billion over a 20-year period, an 8.6 percent increase from the last estimate.

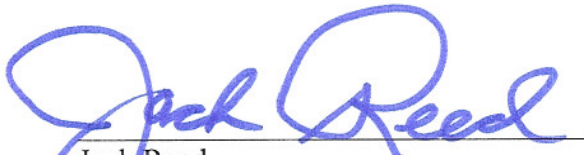
In addition to the positive impact that increased SRF funding would have for local water infrastructure quality, an investment in the SRF programs would have long-term benefits for our economy. According to the American Public Works Association, every billion dollars invested in water and wastewater infrastructure construction creates over 40,000 jobs. Beyond the infrastructure jobs that could be created, other critical sectors of our economy rely on clean water, including the \$45 billion commercial fishing industry; soft drink manufacturers that

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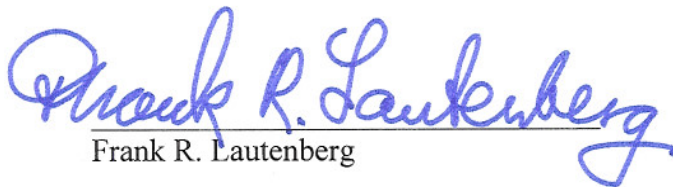
generate \$54 billion in sales; and the manufacturing sector that uses more than 13 trillion gallons of clean water each year.


We look forward to working with you to continue the federal commitment to clean, safe water for our communities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

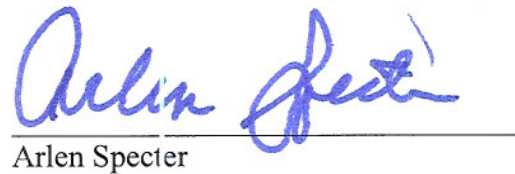
  
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Jack Reed

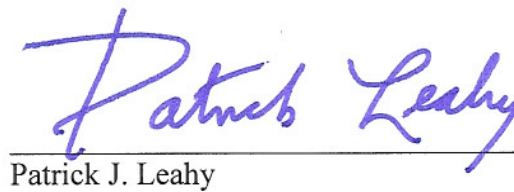
  
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George V. Voinovich

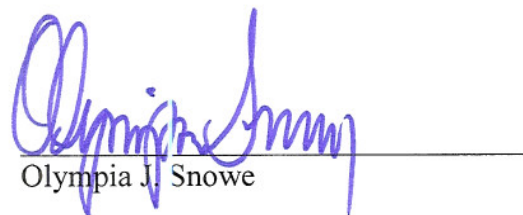
  
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Frank R. Lautenberg

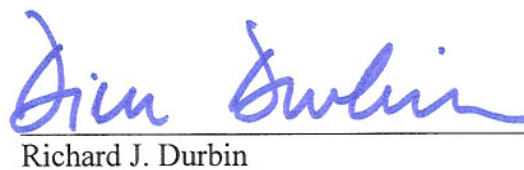
  
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Susan M. Collins

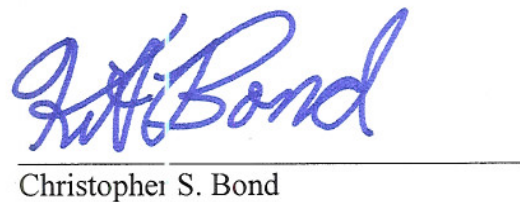
  
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Barbara Boxer

  
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Arlen Specter

  
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Patrick J. Leahy

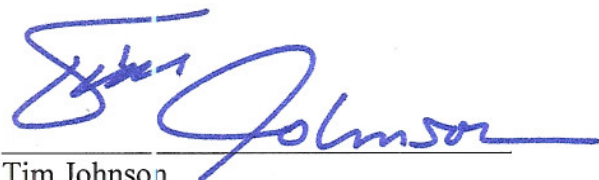
  
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Olympia J. Snowe

  
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Richard J. Durbin

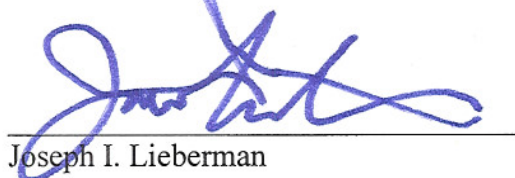
  
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Christopher S. Bond



Barbara A. Mikulski



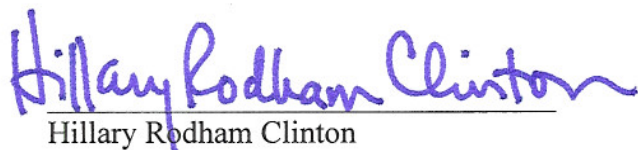
Tim Johnson



Joseph I. Lieberman



James M. Inhofe



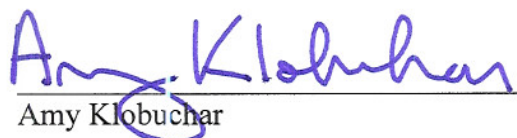
Hillary Rodham Clinton



Benjamin L. Cardin



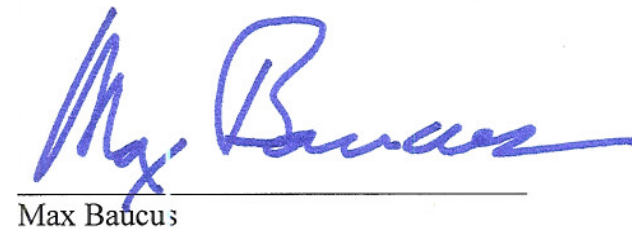
Bernard Sanders



Amy Klobuchar



Sheldon Whitehouse



Max Baucus



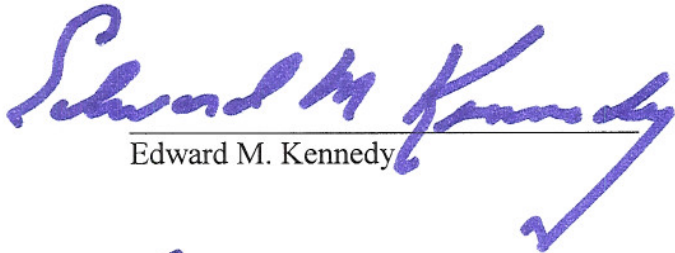
John Warner

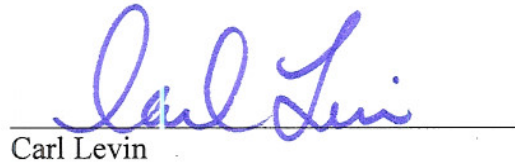


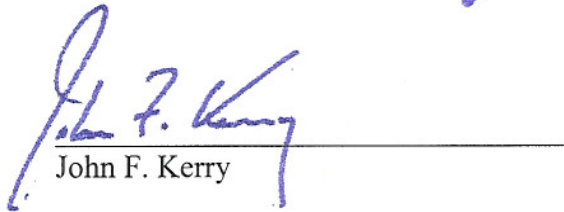
Barack Obama

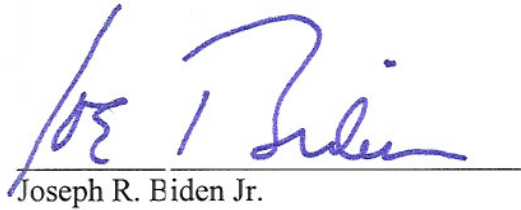


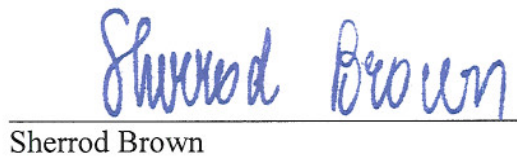
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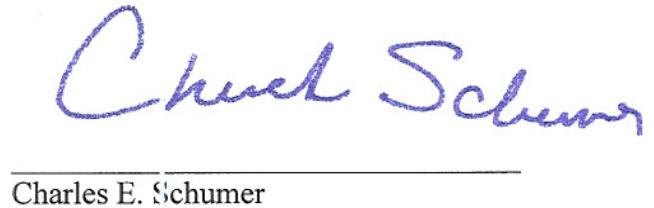
  
Edward M. Kennedy

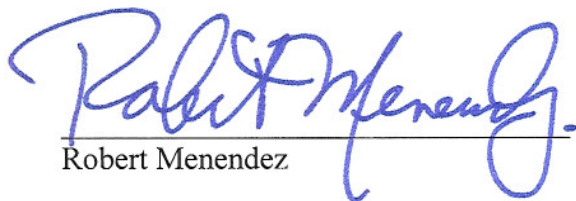
  
Carl Levin

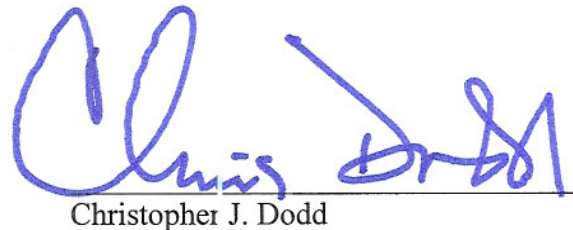
  
John F. Kerry

  
Joseph R. Biden Jr.

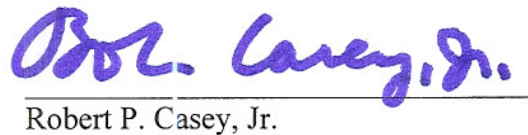
  
Sherrod Brown

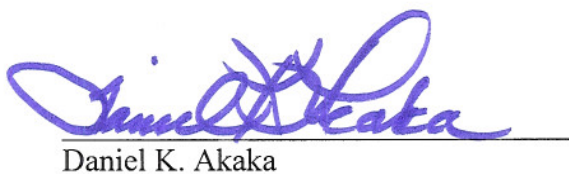
  
Charles E. Schumer

  
Robert Menendez

  
Christopher J. Dodd

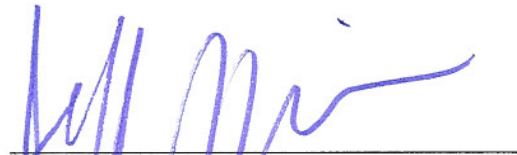
  
Debbie Stabenow

  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.

  
Daniel K. Akaka

  
Ron Wyden

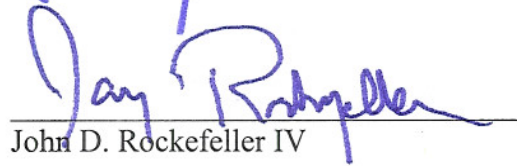
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Jeff Bingaman



Ken Salazar



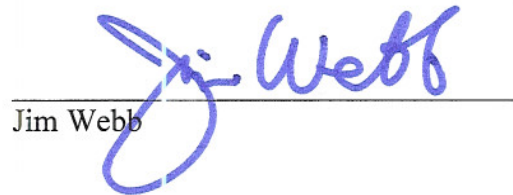
John D. Rockefeller IV



Blanche L. Lincoln



Bill Nelson



Jim Webb



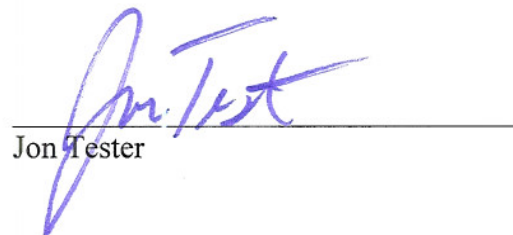
Maria Cantwell



Lisa Murkowski



Gordon H. Smith



Jon Tester



Richard G. Lugar



Russell D. Feingold

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Chuck Hagel



Norm Coleman

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