



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Chairman

Nick J. Rahall, III
Ranking Member

November 13, 2012

James W. Coon II, Chief of Staff

James H. Zoia, Democrat Chief of Staff

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H204 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H307 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to encourage the inclusion of additional funding for wastewater infrastructure construction in any end-of the year agreement that might be negotiated before the 112th Congress adjourns.

As this nation emerges from one of the worst economic downturns in recent history, it is incumbent upon this Congress to invest in programs with a proven record for job creation. Earlier this year, Congress enacted a surface transportation program because Members on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers recognized that funding for transportation infrastructure projects was critical to rebuilding our communities, boosting our economy, and creating much-needed jobs. For Congress to replicate these economic and job-creation successes, it should now focus attention to addressing the wastewater treatment needs facing all of our communities.

According to a recent state survey, individual states report a need of close to \$300 billion in wastewater treatment, pipe replacement and repair, and stormwater management projects over the next twenty years. Yet, current appropriations for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program – the primary Federal source of funding for such projects – have failed to keep pace with, let alone address, the growing backlog of replacement and repair needs. Additional investment in wastewater infrastructure, through the Clean Water SRF, complimentary direct loan and loan guarantee programs, or other revenue-neutral options, has broad, bipartisan support in Congress, and among states, municipalities, and many stakeholder groups. Similarly, increased Federal investment will create tens of thousands of U.S. jobs in the construction, engineering, and manufacturing industries that support wastewater infrastructure projects, as well as provide substantial economic return to the U.S. Treasury.

For every \$1 billion spent on wastewater infrastructure through the traditional SRF program, we can create as many as 33,000 jobs in communities across America while improving public health, as well as the health of local economies and the environment. It is a win-win proposition.

In addition, if States and communities were to leverage this investment through the Clean Water SRF or other, complimentary guarantee programs, a similar investment could generate as much as \$10 billion in local funding for such projects, which in turn would produce more than 300,000 new jobs. Such an investment would have a significant beneficial impact on our economic recovery efforts and our water resources around the country.

As House leadership continues its discussions related to the economic recovery of our nation, we urge you to consider modest investments in water infrastructure funding programs that support state programs, leverage additional public and private investment, and create thousands of jobs while benefitting the health of our communities, our economy, and our environment.

The decades-long history of bipartisan support for these programs in Congress should serve as a model for our efforts moving forward.

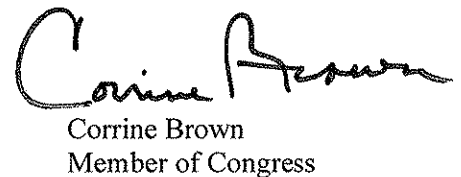
Sincerely,



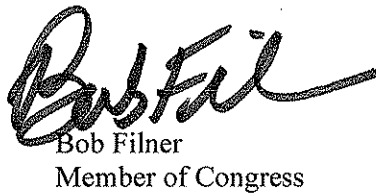
Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



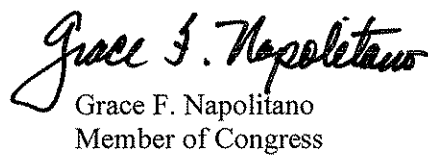
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



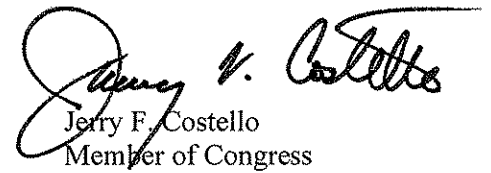
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



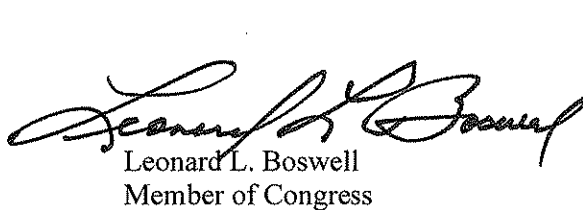
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



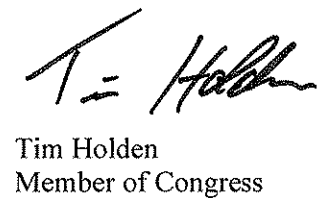
Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress



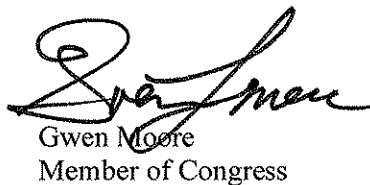
Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress



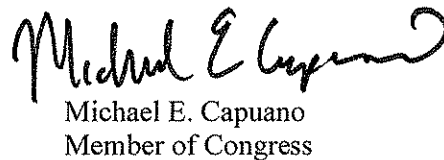
William R. Keating
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Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
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Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

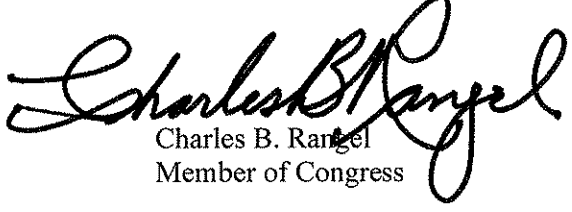


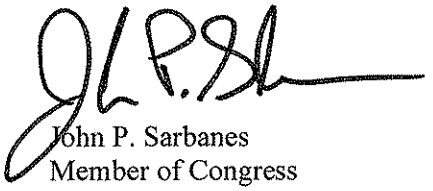
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress


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John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



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Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

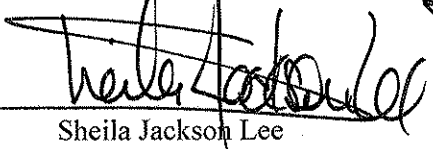

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

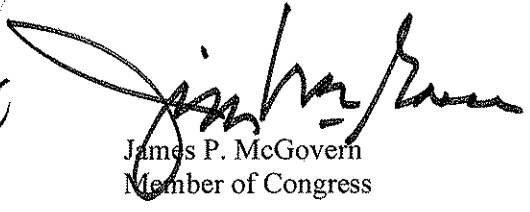

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

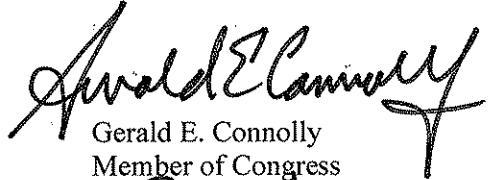

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

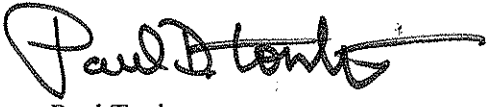

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable John L. Mica, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure