

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), which represents nearly 1,700 utility and excavation contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers, strongly supports the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019. This legislation will make long-overdue investments in our nation's wastewater infrastructure and support family-sustaining jobs in the process.

The need to invest in America's water infrastructure is well documented. The Environmental Protection Agency's most recent Clean Watersheds Needs Survey estimated that \$271 billion will be necessary to address capital needs in wastewater and stormwater treatment systems over the next twenty years. NUCA's members see the evidence of this on a daily basis. Whether it is a failed pipe or overloaded treatment system, we see up close what happens to our infrastructure after years of neglect.

The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act will make significant investments to address these challenges. In particular, the reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program at \$20 billion over five years will help communities pay for critical wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements. The CWSRF program has a proven record of success and is a responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Not only do the improvements made possible through this program have enormous health and environmental benefits, but the projects also support jobs throughout the economy. An estimated 20,003 to 26,669 jobs can result from a national investment of \$1 billion in water infrastructure projects. These opportunities are spread across the economy with more than one-half of the jobs in industries other than water and wastewater construction.

NUCA members are proud of the work that we do to protect the public health and keep our economy moving. But to make this work possible, the federal government must renew its commitment to our water infrastructure. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act will prioritize this issue, and our members stand ready to help move it forward.

Respectfully,



Mark Fuglevand
Chairman of the Board



Bill Hillman
CEO