



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource

www.apwa.net

1200 Main Street, Suite 1400
Kansas City, MO 64105-2100
816-472-6100 800-848-APWA
fax 816-472-1610

1275 K Street NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20005-4083
202-408-9541
fax 202-408-9542

March 4, 2019

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

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

On behalf of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and our more than 30,000 members, I am writing to thank you for introducing the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019. Your support for our nation's clean water practitioners has been instrumental in ensuring the protection of public health and our environment through sound water infrastructure.

As our nation's wastewater systems age, communities face greater costs in meeting federal environmental requirements. Yet the federal government is contributing fewer dollars to communities struggling to meet these federal mandates. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 96% of funding that goes into wastewater infrastructure is from state and local entities, and in the 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that our nation's wastewater infrastructure needed \$271 billion in investment over the next 20 years. Given that this study is the better part of a decade old, it is very likely that the estimate has increased.

APWA and its members appreciate your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. This program is a shining example of partnership between the federal government and the states, and the over \$126 billion in assistance that has been leveraged since the program's 1987 inception speaks to its effectiveness. By increasing the authorized funding level for the program to \$20 billion over the next five years, communities will have a greater ability to meet their needs to protect public health and the environment.

In addition to the health benefits, investment in our nation's water infrastructure is a proven job creator. The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that for every job added in the water workforce, 3.68 jobs are added to the national economy. Additionally, for every dollar spent on water

PRESIDENT
David (Dave) Lawry, PE.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Scott D. Grayson



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infrastructure, about \$2.62 is generated in the private economy. Clearly, federal funding of water infrastructure is a wise investment.

Your support for the CWSRF program is vital, but it is only one aspect of the multitude of federal tools that communities need to meet their water infrastructure needs. Along with robust funding for CWSRF, APWA requests that Congress:

- Fully implement P.L. 115-436, the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. This law will allow communities to develop a plan that integrates wastewater and stormwater management, giving them greater flexibility in complying with federal mandates;
- Fully fund the Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) and Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now (SRF WIN) provisions in P.L. 115-270, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. These programs provide additional financing options for states and municipalities to undertake more vital water infrastructure projects; and
- Ensure that any unobligated balances in individual state CWSRF accounts are expended in a timely manner. Doing so will make certain that federal dollars are spent efficiently and effectively.

Each day public works professionals are diligently working to protect and maintain the critical infrastructure that is so essential to protecting our health and quality of life. Because of our shared commitment, APWA looks forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on this legislation to help public works professionals meet our water infrastructure challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Grayson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Grayson
Executive Director

PRESIDENT
David (Dave) Lawry, PE.

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