



# Historic Investment in **CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE** in the **INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT**

## ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION INVESTMENT IN CLEAN WATER

**H.R. 3684, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, provides billions of dollars in direct infrastructure investment as a down-payment to address America’s crumbling wastewater infrastructure and local water quality challenges.**

Led in the House by Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chair Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Chair Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), this **bipartisan bill** renews the federal commitment to improve local water infrastructure by providing an infusion of federal assistance for the construction, repair, and replacement of the nation’s wastewater and stormwater conveyance and treatment facilities.

Division E, Title II of H.R. 3684 is the first reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program—the primary source of federal assistance for wastewater infrastructure construction—since its enactment in 1987. This legislation **authorizes historic levels of federal assistance to communities** through the Clean Water SRF and other grant programs to protect local water quality, to ensure the sustainability and resiliency of our wastewater infrastructure, to increase the affordability of investment to local communities, and to create well-paying jobs here in the United States.

### BACKGROUND ON THE *CLEAN WATER ACT*

Less than 50 years ago, many U.S. rivers were little more than open sewers, with some so polluted that they literally caught fire. The nation quickly realized that individual states and communities, alone, could not protect the quality of rivers and streams and that water pollution does not respect local or state boundaries.

In response, Congress enacted the landmark ***Clean Water Act*** which fundamentally changed the way we address water pollution in this country, set strong standards, and provided substantial financial assistance to communities to meet local water quality challenges.

Yet even today, communities, especially financially distressed, rural, and Tribal communities, struggle to afford necessary wastewater infrastructure upgrades to protect human and environmental health, as well as the health of local economies.

To address these challenges, H.R. 3684 renews the **Federal commitment to wastewater infrastructure investment**, increases the **affordability to local ratepayers**, and modernizes water infrastructure to **address the challenges posed by climate change**.

### HISTORIC CLEAN WATER FUNDING IN H.R. 3684

**AUTHORIZES: \$17.6 billion (over 5 years) for clean water infrastructure, including:**

- ✓ **\$14.65 billion** for the Clean Water SRF.
- ✓ **\$1.4 billion** for projects to capture, treat, or reuse sewer overflows or stormwater.
- ✓ **\$125 million** for alternative water source and water recycling projects to augment existing water supplies.
- ✓ **\$225 million** for clean water pilot programs and projects for climate resiliency and greenhouse gas recapture.
- ✓ Approximately **\$1 billion** for rural and Tribal technical assistance, for septic and cesspools repair and replacement, and for utility workforce investment.
- ✓ **\$250 million** for the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (WIFIA).

**APPROPRIATES: \$12.7 billion (over 5 years) for water infrastructure, including:**

- ✓ **\$11.7 billion** for the Clean Water SRF.
- ✓ **\$1 billion** in municipal grants to treat PFAS and other emerging contaminants.





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## INCREASED AFFORDABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

### **WATER NEEDS FACTS & FIGURES**

**\$300 BILLION.** The amount of investment needed over the next 20 years according to EPA.

**5 PERCENT.** The percentage the federal government now pays for water projects. The federal government previously paid up to **75 percent** of the total costs of a project, with states and local governments making up the difference.

**28,000 JOBS.** According to the National Utility Contractors Association, every \$1 billion invested in water infrastructure **creates or sustains approximately 28,000** American jobs.

**D+.** The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) *2021 Infrastructure Report Card* awards **waste-water infrastructure a grade of D+.**

**55 PERCENT.** According to EPA's most recent National Water Quality Inventory, over **55 percent of assessed rivers and streams do not meet the "fishable-swimmable"** standard of the *Clean Water Act*.

In addition to providing historic investment levels for clean water infrastructure, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* makes several critical changes to the *Clean Water Act* to address many of the concerns raised by local elected officials and stakeholders who struggle to afford critical wastewater infrastructure investments, to improve water quality and address legacy environmental justice concerns, as well as to address emerging concerns related to climate change.

This bipartisan legislation:

- ✓ Permanently requires states to distribute a minimum of 10% (and a maximum of 30%) of their SRF funds to municipalities as grants to increase the affordability of wastewater infrastructure to local communities, especially those that struggle to repay traditional federal loans.
- ✓ Prioritizes investments in green infrastructure, water- and energy-efficiency, and other efforts to increase the resiliency of utilities to climate change.
- ✓ Authorizes Federal funds for utilities to implement waste-energy recovery measures in the operation of wastewater facilities that can reduce utility costs and recapture harmful greenhouse gases.
- ✓ Provides critical technical assistance to small, rural, and Tribal communities that often struggle to afford the costs of planning new infrastructure projects and to address local water quality challenges.
- ✓ Directs states to target a portion of combined or sanitary sewer overflows grant funding to financially distressed and rural communities.
- ✓ Authorizes federal grants for wastewater utilities to address vulnerabilities to man-made or natural disasters, including vulnerabilities to climate change and cyberattacks.
- ✓ Invests critical clean water funding in state, local, and union workforce development programs.
- ✓ Protects local water quality and public health by investing in the repair and replacement of failing septic systems and including communities that, today, lack access to adequate sewage treatment systems.

#### **H.R. 3684 is supported by a diverse coalition of organizations, such as:**

American Iron and Steel Institute • American Public Works Association (APWA) • American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) • American Sustainable Business Council • Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) • Clean Water Action • Ducks Unlimited • Environment America • International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) • National Ass'n of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) • Laborers' International Union (LiUNA) • National Ass'n of Counties (NACo) • National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association • Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) • Sierra Club • United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) • U.S. Chamber of Commerce • U.S. Conference of Mayors • United Steelworkers • WateReuse Association

