



January 15, 2002

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
Chairman
Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
SH-728 Hart House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Jeffords,

This nation's drinking water and wastewater utilities face an urgent infrastructure funding challenge that will become a crisis if we do not address it now. Hearings last year before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works documented a shortfall of up to \$1 trillion in the needed level of investment for meeting federal requirements and the repair and replacement of aging infrastructure over the next twenty years. We need your strong leadership and commitment to passing a bill that reinvigorates the federal-state-local partnership in funding drinking water and wastewater infrastructure to eliminate this shortfall.

Local governments and utility ratepayers currently shoulder over 90 percent of all spending on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. However, they cannot fund all that is needed in the next five years without significant federal assistance.

Meeting federal requirements without federal assistance often requires diverting scarce funds from other important local priorities, such as police and fire protection. Aging infrastructure is a risk to public health and the environment. If the nation is committed to safe drinking water and clean lakes and rivers, there must be a significant financial commitment to assist local governments in meeting the costs of clean and safe water.

We are asking the Congress to commit \$57 billion over the next five years for investment in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. This is half the amount of the spending shortfall documented by the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN) over that period, and if fully funded, still leaves the federal share of drinking water and wastewater funding at less than 20 percent of total spending. The federal commitment can include loans and loan guarantees but must also include a significant grant component.

We need your leadership on this problem. We look forward to working with you to advance legislation consistent with the WIN principles that renews a significant federal commitment to clean and safe water.

American Coal Ash Association (ACAA)
American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA)
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association (ACPPA)

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
American Public Works Association (APWA)
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
American Water Works Association (AWWA)
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
Associated Equipment Distributors (AED)
Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA)
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
American Portland Cement Alliance (APCA)
Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)
California Rebuild America Coalition (CalRAC)
Clean Water Action (CWA)
Construction Industry Manufacturers Association (CIMA)
Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)
Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)
International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO (IUOE)
National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA)
National Association of Counties (NACO)
National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
National Association of Towns and Townships (NATAT)
National League of Cities (NLC)
National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NAASCO)
National Rural Water Association (NRWA)
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
National Urban Agriculture Council (NUAC)
National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI)
Pipe Rehabilitation Council (PRC)
Rural Community Assistance Program, Inc. (RCAP)
Prestressed/Precast Concrete Institute (PCI)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)
Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association
Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS)