



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive Public Works Resource

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January 17, 2007

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Chair  
Transportation & Infrastructure  
Committee  
2165 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Ranking Member  
Transportation & Infrastructure  
Committee  
2163 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chair  
Water Resources & Environment  
Subcommittee  
B-376 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard H. Baker  
Ranking Member  
Water Resources & Environment  
Subcommittee  
B-375 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Committee Leadership:

On behalf of the American Public Works Association (APWA), I am writing to you today to express our strong support for your swift leadership in holding today's hearing on the pressing need for renewed federal investment in clean water infrastructure. As stewards of the public infrastructure, the members of APWA encourage you to craft new legislation in the coming weeks that will fully address the clean water infrastructure needs of local communities across this nation.

APWA represents over 28,500 members who design, build, operate and maintain transportation, water supply and wastewater treatment systems, waste and refuse disposal systems, public buildings and grounds, and other structures and facilities essential to the economy and our American way of life. Public works professionals serve a diverse range of local communities, municipalities, counties, townships, villages and districts, whether large and small, urban or rural. APWA members are dedicated to providing safe and reliable services to their communities.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the need for increased long-term water infrastructure funding is extreme. Without a federal re-commitment to clean water, the costs of maintaining existing and aging infrastructure, further stressed by growth and development, as well as new and costly legal and regulatory requirements, are further burdening public works departments and local governments nationwide as they struggle to preserve the public welfare of their communities. As the Committee begins crafting this essential legislation, APWA encourages the Committee to consider the following:

- Dramatic increases in federal clean water funding are essential. Experts estimate a funding gap of \$300 to \$500 billion over 20 years between what identified projects and what is currently spent on our clean water infrastructure;

**PRESIDENT**  
William A. Verkest, P.E.  
Municipal Program Manager  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Peter B. King

- Support for research and technology demonstration programs that provide grants to test innovative alternative solutions to water quality challenges;
- Support for a National Center for Utility Management;
- Provide assistance to policymakers in quickly identifying a dedicated source of revenue to ensure the availability of adequate appropriations to fund clean water programs.

Legislation addressing each of these issues will go a long way to alleviate the clean water funding needs challenging public works departments across the nation.

Again, on behalf of myself and the professional members of APWA, thank you for your continued leadership in tackling this difficult challenge. Please consider APWA as your source for information and resources on public works and call on our Washington, DC office for any additional assistance as you move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Verkest". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

William A. Verkest, PE  
President