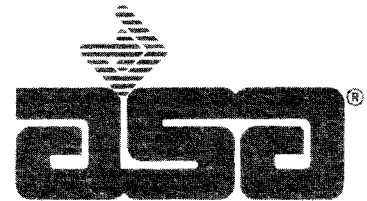


**WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT  
AFFAIRS OFFICE**

1990 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 340  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202/223-6222  
202/785-0687 (FAX)

The National Association  
of Full-Service Plumbing,  
Heating, Cooling and Piping  
Products Wholesalers



American Supply Association  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza  
Suite 1360  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
312/464-0090  
312/464-0091 (FAX)  
Inge Calderon  
Executive Vice President

**Statement for the Record  
of the  
American Supply Association**

**Presented by  
Joel Becker, President  
American Supply Association**

**Before  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
On  
The Need for Renewed Investment for Clean Water Infrastructure.  
January 19, 2007**

The American Supply Association (ASA) is the national organization serving wholesale distributors and their suppliers in the plumbing, heating, cooling and industrial pipe, valves, and fittings industries. Members of ASA are distributors, manufacturers, service vendors and independent manufacturer's representatives.

ASA applauds the Subcommittee for its making investment in clean water and reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRLF) one of the first orders of business in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Continued funding of water infrastructure projects is of vital importance to our nation's economy. Quick reauthorization by the Congress will allow pending projects to move forward.

In addition, ASA firmly believes that the time for a Clean Water Trust Fund, providing long-term, sustainable funding is now. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN) report a funding gap of \$300 billion to \$500 billion over 20 years between what is needed and what is actually spent on our infrastructure. Without a federal recommitment to clean water, the costs of maintaining existing and aging infrastructure, further stressed by ever increasing

population and industrial demands, as well as new and cost Clean Water Act requirements must be borne at the local level.

The needs of municipalities, cities, counties and towns have outgrown the funding levels of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) The CWSRF program has been under siege since 2004, plummeting from \$1.35 billion in 2004 to less than \$700 million proposed for 2007. A dedicated source of federal funding must be identified to assure adequate and continued financial assistance to municipalities to meet the goals of the federal water quality program.

ASA supports the objectives of establishing a Clean Water Trust fund. Such a dedicated trust fund for clean water will ensure that infrastructure modernization and maintenance remains a priority; and will secure the long-term viability of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), while also adding a significant grant component to help communities fully achieve the goals of the Clean Water Act.

An important component of a dedicated trust fund would be expanded eligibility under the CWSRF to authorize the use of the SRF for water conservation measures. This would enable consumers to make more efficient use of treated water, including incentives for the modification, retirement, or replacement of customer-owned water-using equipment, appliances, plumbing fixtures and fittings, and landscape materials.

Saving water through improved efficiency can lessen the need to withdraw ground or surface water supplies for municipal or industrial demands. Strategic use of water conservation not only helps save the nation's water resources but also can help extend the value and life of both water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure, extending the beneficial investment of public funds.

ASA urges all members of the Subcommittee to include and support language in reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that would assist Congress in quickly identifying a dedicated source of revenue to ensure the availability of appropriations to fund clean water legislation

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. The American Supply Association looks forward to working with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the creation of Clean Water Trust Fund.