



January 27, 2009

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
Chair  
Rules Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Dreier  
Ranking Member  
Rules Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Slaughter and Ranking Member Dreier,

As America's leading construction, engineering, conservation, labor, municipal, and manufacturing organizations, we strongly support amendments by Reps. Tim Bishop (D-N.Y.) and Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) to the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* that would boost funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and direct that the funding be in the form of grants.

Rep. Bishop's amendment would increase the amount of money allocated to wastewater infrastructure projects to \$12 billion from the bill's current level of \$6 billion. This amount of funding is well justified and is a smart investment for our nation's economy, environment, and public health. Surveys done by municipal water and wastewater treatment operators, county officials, and other water resource experts across the country have identified about \$20 billion in CWSRF-eligible projects that are ready to put workers back on the job within the next 120 days. An investment of \$12 billion can be expected to create about 420,000 good jobs improving and upgrading our nation's vast system of pipes, treatment facilities, and other wastewater infrastructure and stormwater projects. Wastewater infrastructure jobs cannot be exported, and will employ workers with a broad range of skills, including engineers, construction workers, plumbers, architects, and maintenance workers.

Rep. Pascrell's amendment would require all funds in the CWSRF be awarded in the form of grants or principal forgiveness. Grants will do the most to stimulate the economy in the shortest amount of time by making funding more available to communities hit hard by the economic downturn. Since the House package was released, many communities, especially those in our urban areas, have said that without grant financing, the stimulus funding will not help them as they struggle to finance large and expensive wastewater and water infrastructure projects. In this economic climate, many communities hesitate to incur debt obligations because they cannot pass the cost of the loan on to their ratepayers. If communities cannot accept loans, the overall effectiveness of the recovery package is diminished because that money cannot be used to create jobs. Like the transportation sector, we believe that the greatest stimulative value for recovery package investments in clean water infrastructure is grant financing.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding our support for the Bishop and Pascrell amendments to the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.

Sincerely,

- **National Association of Clean Water Agencies**
- **Associated General Contractors of America**
- **American Society of Civil Engineers**
- **American Public Works Association**
- **American Council of Engineering Companies**
- **American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association**
- **International Union of Operating Engineers**
- **International Union of Bricklayers**
- **Laborers International of North America**
- **United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices in the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry**
- **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**
- **Water Environment Federation**
- **Western Coalition of Arid States**
- **Food and Water Watch**
- **Clean Water Action**
- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**
- **American Rivers**
- **Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition**
- **Riverkeeper**
- **Trout Unlimited**
- **Ducks Unlimited**
- **American Sportfishing Association**
- **Rural Community Assistance Partnership**
- **Association of California Water Agencies**
- **Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**
- **United Brotherhood of Carpenters**
- **Design Build Institute of America**
- **California Rebuild America Coalition**
- **Associated Equipment Distributors**
- **Association of Equipment Manufacturers**
- **National Construction Alliance**
- **Clean Water Construction Coalition**
- **Construction Management Association of America**
- **Association of Equipment Manufacturers**
- **American Supply Association**
- **Vinyl Institute**
- **Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association**
- **Pipe Rehabilitation Council**
- **Portland Cement Association**
- **National Ready Mix Concrete Association**
- **Vermeer Corp.**
- **California Association of Sanitation Agencies**
- **National Association of Towns and Townships**
- **National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies**
- **North American Power Sweeping Association**
- **National Society of Professional Engineers**
- **Environmental and Energy Study Institute**
- **Underground Contractors Association of Illinois**