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**IT'S TIME TO FIX THE CRUDDY PIPES!
AED CALLS FOR FAST ACTION TO BOOST WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Saying that the “health and safety” of Americans are at stake, the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) today urged the bipartisan leadership of the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee to act quickly to reauthorize and substantially increase funding for federal clean water programs. AED is national trade association based in Oak Brook, Illinois whose members sell, rent, and service construction, mining, forestry, and agricultural equipment.

Government and interest group studies put the nation’s 20-year water infrastructure investment needs at between \$300 billion and \$500 billion. However, despite these dire assessments, Congress has let the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program expire, and appropriations for the SRF fell from \$1.35 billion in FY 2004 to \$886.8 million in FY 2006. Further cuts have been proposed for FY 2007. On Jan. 19, the House T&I Committee was scheduled to hold a hearing to focus attention on the need to reverse that trend and increase water infrastructure spending.

“The situation is untenable,” AED President J. Toby Mack said. “By cutting funding for water infrastructure in the face of the staggering investment needs, Congress has put the health and safety of Americans, and the nation’s economic vitality, at risk. We’re pleased to see that the bipartisan leadership of the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee is making tackling this crisis a top priority.”

“Put simply, it’s time for Congress to fix the cruddy pipes,” AED Vice President of Government Affairs Christian A. Klein said. “The Clean Water SRF needs to be reauthorized, investment levels have to be increased to at least \$20 billion over the next five years, and Congress should take a hard look at the feasibility of user fee-funded Clean Water Trust Fund to provide a consistent source of water infrastructure dollars. We look forward to working with the T&I Committee members to quickly enact legislation that will make these goals a reality.”

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The association of leaders in equipment distribution.