



Talking Points

Clean Water Is a Matter of Trust

America's roads and airports are built with money from National Trust Funds. Isn't it time for Congress to create a National Trust Fund for Clean Water?

Help us to educate Members of Congress and elected officials in local communities and state capitols across America. **These are the facts:**

- In line with the Water Infrastructure Network's 2000 *Clean and Safe Water for the 21st Century* report, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) have independently confirmed a water infrastructure funding gap of between \$300 and \$500 billion over the next 20 years.
- Americans 'demand' that their water be clean and safe according to a February 2004 survey of over 800 registered voters nationwide. This is how citizens responded:
 - 90% said they believe that a federal investment to guarantee clean water is a critical component of our nation's environmental well-being.
 - 86% agree that clean water has no local boundaries and that given the interstate nature of clean water issues, it is important to have the federal government involved to ensure consistent funding.
 - 83% support passage of clean water trust fund legislation.
 - 62% believe clean water is in the greatest need of a trust fund, compared to 25% for highways and 5% for airports. (Today the highway trust fund receives approximately \$30 billion annually and the airport trust fund approximately \$10 billion annually.)
- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that *local government spending* for water and sewers exceeds nearly all other categories of local government spending including police, hospitals, fire protection and housing.
- According to EPA, we are at risk of reversing the water quality gains made in America since enactment of the 1972 Clean Water Act absent a massive new investment for America's clean water infrastructure.

Our public health, environment and economic welfare depend on a National Clean Water Trust Fund. The Water Infrastructure Network Needs Your Help! Learn more about us and see our list of contacts on our website at www.win-water.org.