



March 4, 2005

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support Increased Funding in Budget for Clean & Safe Drinking Water SRFs

Dear Chairman Gregg and Ranking Member Conrad:

We write on behalf of our members who urge you to protect human health and the environment by supporting a minimum of \$1.35 billion in budget authority for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and \$850 million in budget authority for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The SRFs help local communities meet water quality and drinking water standards, repair and replace old and decaying pipelines and plants, protect public health, and ensure continued progress in restoring the health and safety of America's water bodies.

This investment is a much-needed down payment to improve our nation's water and wastewater treatment plants. Your support for additional funding for the SRFs would help stimulate the economy, create jobs and provide funds for securing our water infrastructure for generations to come. Water infrastructure in the U.S. has become antiquated, with many pipes as much as 50-100 years old. The funding increase provided by this amendment is essential to protect our nation's rivers and lakes and to assure clean water for communities across the country.

When the Clean Water Act was passed more than thirty years ago the federal government made a commitment to the American people to clean up the nation's waters. At that time the federal government funded 75% of the costs of maintaining a clean water infrastructure in America; today the federal government funds a mere 5%. At the current rate of expenditures, the gap in funding for clean water infrastructure would be more than half a trillion dollars by 2019.

We again urge you to support a minimum of \$1.35 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$850 million for the Drinking Water SRF in the Senate Budget Resolution.

**Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA)
American Water Works Association (AWWA)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT)
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)**

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA)
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association (ACPPA)
American Public Works Association (APWA)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Supply Association (ASA)
Associated Equipment Distributors, Inc. (AED)
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)
Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)
International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO (IUOE)
National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
National Heavy & Highway Alliance
International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC)
International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO (IUOE)
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)
Operative Plasters' and Cement Masons' International Association
Portland Cement Association (PCA)
Public Citizen
Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)
Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association (Uni-Bell)
Underground Contractors Association of Illinois (UCA)
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)