

# **Support Critical Funding For Communities to Stop Polluted Runoff from Highways**

**Please sign on to the Dear Colleague letter sponsored by  
Reps. Stupak and Pallone**

**Tell Mr. Young and Mr. Oberstar to include the Highway  
Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program  
(Section 1620 of S. 732) in the final transportation bill**

**Help keep 150,993,920 pounds of nitrogen, 16,043,104 lbs of  
phosphorus, and 3,208,621 tons of sediments out of our waters.**

**Help cities and more than 5,000 small communities and counties in  
every state meet requirements to manage stormwater runoff.**

**Help support the program authorizing \$907 million over 5 years (2% of  
STP funds) to reduce pollution, damage to fisheries, sewer overflows,  
and flooding from stormwater.**

## *Supported by:*

U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (formerly AMSA), Association of  
Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA); American Water Works Association (AWWA),  
Water Environment Federation (WEF); Association of State Floodplain Managers;  
Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), Association of State and Interstate Water  
Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA); and American Rivers, Center for International  
Environmental Law, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental  
Defense, Friends of the Earth, League of Conservation Voters, National Audubon Society,  
National Environmental Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Smart  
Growth America, Surface Transportation Policy Project, and Trout Unlimited  
*For more information contact: Betsy Otto, American Rivers, 202-347-7550, botto@amrivers.org*

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## **Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program in the Transportation Bill**

### **Why stormwater runoff is a critical issue:**

- Clean, safe water polls higher than any other environmental issue, including air quality or toxics among the general public.
- According to EPA, stormwater (“nonpoint”) runoff is the largest source of water pollution today. Urban stormwater runoff is a growing cause of beach closures and untreated sewage discharges, caused when stormwater overwhelms sewer pipes and treatment plants.
- Local communities bear the brunt of stormwater impacts, including local flooding, damage to infrastructure, such as bridge supports, and higher sewage treatment and drinking water filtration costs. More than 5,000 cities, towns, and counties must now meet Clean Water Act stormwater regulations, and many large cities already manage stormwater pollution in order to meet discharge permits and other Clean Water Act regulations. But there is no funding for localities to address these requirements.

### **Why funding for stormwater mitigation is needed in the transportation bill:**

- Roads and related infrastructure, such as parking lots, comprise two-thirds of all paved surfaces. These hard surfaces are the primary source of stormwater runoff, preventing rainfall from soaking into the ground and recharging aquifers.
- Roads collect pollutants from tailpipe emissions and brake linings along with other contaminants that wash into rivers and streams during storm events and pollute those bodies of water.
- There are provisions that fund transportation control measures for air quality (CMAQ, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program) under the Clean Air Act. No parallel program exists to protect the nation’s waterways from the harms caused by stormwater runoff from highways.

### **What the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program does:**

- ✓ The Senate transportation bill (S. 732) includes an important provision (Section 1620) to mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff from federal-aid roads and directly related facilities. According to the Federal Highway Administration the provision authorized \$867.6 million over 5 years (2% of STP funds).
- ✓ Eligible activities include: non-structural stormwater projects, stormwater retrofits, projects that recharge groundwater, promote natural filters, and stream restoration, and projects that minimize stream bank erosion, and promotes innovative technologies. These approaches reduce costs to local communities, protect the natural water cycle, and provide more overall environmental benefits (e.g. protecting wildlife habitat and recreation).

*For more information contact Betsy Otto, [botto@amrivers.org](mailto:botto@amrivers.org), 202-347-7550 x3033, or  
Mary Katherine Ishee, [mkishee@smartgrowthamerica.org](mailto:mkishee@smartgrowthamerica.org), 202-207-3355 x30*



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

June 22, 2005

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
410 Dirksen Office Building  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman  
Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs Committee  
534 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James M. Jeffords  
Ranking Member  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
456 Dirksen Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes  
Ranking Member  
Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs Committee  
534 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Conferees:

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors and the hundreds of cities we represent, we write to urge you to pass a well-funded, six-year surface transportation bill to build a 21st century transportation system with modern transit, bridges, large scale transportation infrastructure projects, and metro highway systems with new technologies that link major metro areas, cut the time people spend in traffic, create more jobs, and move goods and services more productively.

In the last ten years, U.S. metro areas have generated 87% of our economic growth, over \$3.8 trillion. Our metro areas generate over 85% of the nation's economic output, labor income and jobs. As this nation has grown, Americans have moved to cities and metro areas in great numbers. Today, more than 83% of Americans live in a metro area.

However, major transportation infrastructure challenges remain. Our metro economies need modern transportation infrastructure to secure the nation's future economic growth.

To begin to address those major transportation infrastructure challenges, the nation's mayors write to express our support for a \$295 billion TEA-21 reauthorization bill. Mayors know all too well that anything less than a \$295 billion transportation bill will continue the deterioration of our transportation systems.

As you make your funding and policy decisions, we urge you to apply the following principles:

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT**

- Recognizing that public transportation reduces congestion, The United States Conference of Mayors urges maximum funding for public transportation to stimulate a dramatic expansion of high-capacity public transit systems, including light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, and bus service.
- Guarantee funding for the transit program from the general fund and the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund.
- Maintain current matching shares for the transit program as authorized under ISTEA and TEA-21.
- Oppose efforts to increase funding for the highway program by reducing funding for the transit program by maintaining the 20% transit - 80% highway share.
- Support the historical funding allocation of 40% for rail modernization, 40% for the new starts program and 20% for the bus and bus facilities program.
- Recognizing that cities throughout the United States are embracing less expensive, fixed guideway transit projects like streetcars, trolleys and bus rapid transit, we support the establishment of a new Small Starts Program with modified federal rules to expedite these projects.

#### **METROPOLITAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

- Recognizing that it is difficult for localities and states to dedicate adequate resources to build, rebuild, or replace large-scale infrastructure projects addressing freight and goods movement, safety, and aging and congested transportation infrastructure, we urge the highest possible funding for "Projects of National and Regional Significance."
- Acknowledging that 32% of our major roads are in poor condition and 29% of the nation's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, we urge increased funding for the core highway programs.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT**

- Support the establishment of a Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program, recognizing that metropolitan areas are struggling with the contamination of drinking water and cleanup of streams, rivers, lakes and ponds from stormwater discharge, including oil, grease, lead and mercury.
- Substantially increase Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds to meet the needs of existing and new non-attainment areas as well as assisting metropolitan areas that have reached attainment.
- Fund the CMAQ program at the highest level possible in response to the growing number of non-attainment areas designated under the 8-hour ozone and fine particulate matter standards.
- Mayors are held accountable for poor air quality; therefore, the Conference calls on the allocation of CMAQ funds to local areas through MPOs.
- Oppose efforts designed to divert CMAQ funds, which undermine commitments to metro areas to fund clean air mandates.

#### **SAFETY AND INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENT**

- Recognizing that safe routes for bicycles, pedestrians and other non-motorized transportation are still inadequate in many metropolitan areas, we urge the establishment of a Safe Routes to School Program and also support maximum funding for Transportation Enhancements.
- Support for metropolitan planning that would increase the takedown for metropolitan areas from 1 percent to 1.5 percent. This adjustment will enhance clean air efforts, increase public involvement and will improve congestion relief efforts.


**INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

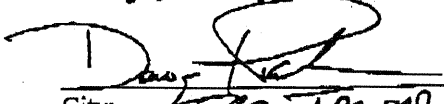
- We support the Senate provision that protects state and local authority under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to manage and preserve public rights-of-way.

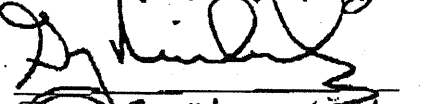
Transportation is a top priority for America's mayors. Transportation is an economic stimulus. It creates jobs and helps ensure that metropolitan economies thrive and in turn the nation's economy.

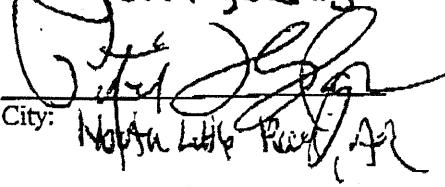
The United States Conference of Mayors would be pleased to supply additional information to further your assessment of these issues before the House and Senate TEA-21 Reauthorization Conference Committee. With strong backing from mayors across the nation on these issues, we stand ready to work with you on the reauthorization of TEA-21.

Sincerely,

  
City: Akron, Ohio

  
City: Troy, NY

  
City: Seattle, Washington

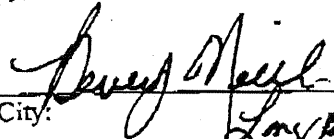
  
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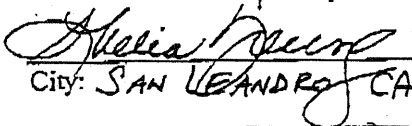
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Allegra Webb Murphy

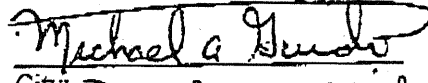
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Anchorage, Alaska  
City: West Haven, CT

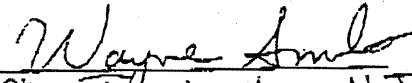
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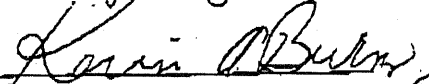
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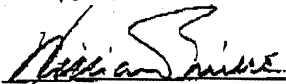
  
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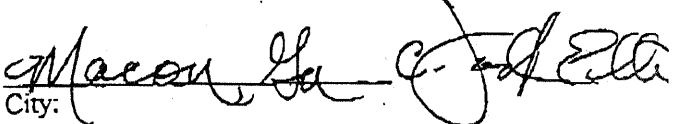
  
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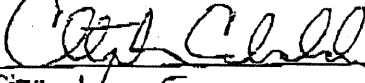
  
City: Dearborn, Michigan

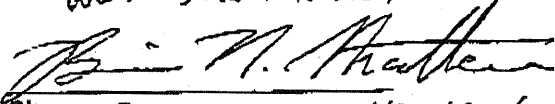
  
City: Irvington, N.J.

  
City: NORTH MARIETTA, GA

  
City: ALEXANDRIA, VA

  
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City: WEST SACRAMENTO, CA

  
City: SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Marekiewicz Zerkel  
City: Dublin Ohio

Loi [unclear]  
City: WFLA, FL

[unclear] Murphy  
City: Port St Lucie FL

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City: Chicago, Ill

[unclear] Kelchert  
City: Bartlett, IL

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City: [unclear], IL

[unclear] Hatan Cooper  
City: DENVER, CO

[unclear] A. Williams  
City: WASHINGTON, D.C.

[unclear] [unclear]  
City: Louisville Ky  
[unclear] V. [unclear]  
City: Clearwater, FL

[unclear] [unclear]  
City: Sacramento California

[unclear] [unclear]  
City: OKLAHOMA CITY

[unclear] [unclear]  
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[unclear] [unclear]  
City: Minnetonka MN

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City: Rochester, NY

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City: DURHAM NC

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City: Santa Barbara, CA

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City: San Rafael, Ca.

[unclear] [unclear]  
City: Rochester, Minnesota

[unclear] [unclear]  
City: BOLINGBROOK, IL

[unclear] [unclear]  
City: SUNNYVALE, CA

[unclear] [unclear]  
City: WESTLAND, MI

Clare Walker  
City: Bowling Green, Ky.

Nancy Lynn Johnson  
City: Appleton, MN

Alan  
City: TORRANCE, CA.

James R. May  
City: ST. LOUIS, MO

Anthony P. Baker  
City: Quincy, MA

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City: Hartford, CT

Paul D. Pate  
City: Cedar Rapids, IA

Steve Means  
City: Dadeville, AL

Judith Valles  
City: San Bernardino, CA

Charles F. Torrey  
City: BILLINGS, MONTANA

Jan  
City: DORAL, FL

Clare Morgan  
City: Wichita, KS

Christine Taylor  
City: DURHAM, NC

Bob Gault  
City: Augusta, GA

Bob Clark  
City: Burlington, Vermont

John M. Cebis  
City: Providence, RI

William J. Murrell  
City: Andrews Park, FL

Kathy Pierce  
City: Eugene, Oregon

David Pope  
City: OAK PARK, IL

Rebecca W. Stinchcomb  
City: Gahanna, Ohio

Stacy  
City: Bloomington, Illinois

Dwain K. Miller  
City: Mount Prospect, FL

Jimmy Wesley  
City: Key West, FL

Rachel Ward  
City: Hurst, TX

Susan Naray  
City: SAN MARCOS, TX

Norl D Busch  
Shawnee, CO  
City:

Philip L. Caputo  
City: Kenner, LA

J. M. Franklin Cornie  
City: Des Moines, IA

Laura T. Miller  
City: West Des Moines, IA

Johnny L. Dupree  
City: Hattiesburg, MS

Thomas M. Estum  
City: Wauwatosa, WI

Rin Gonzalez  
City: San Jose, CA

Sharon Goldscoorika  
City: Germania, TN

Bruce W. Tunes  
City: Fargo, ND

Rosmaria M. Duv  
City: Redmond, WA

Dr. Lawrence Holley III  
City: Portsmouth, VA

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of New York City, NY

Elizabeth G. Flores  
Mayor of Laredo, TX

Kevin A. Burns  
City: North Miami, FL

Greg M. Soderman  
City: Beaumont, TX

James P. Kennedy  
City: Campbell, CA

Greg S  
City: Greer, IN

Manuel A. Diaz  
City: Miami, FL

Tom Potter  
City: Portland, OR

Oscar Goodman  
City: Las Vegas, NV

David D. M...<sup>3</sup>  
City: St. George, UT

Paul M...  
City: Rockford, IL

James P. ...  
City: Saipan, MP

Jeff R...  
City: Colgate, NY

John C. ...  
City: Pembroke Pines, FL


City:

Laura Miller  
Mayor of Dallas, TX

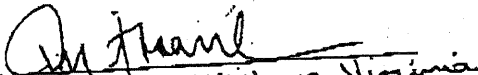


June 22, 2005

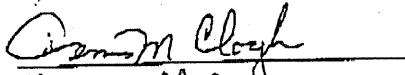
Page 7

  
City: LAUREL, FLORIDA

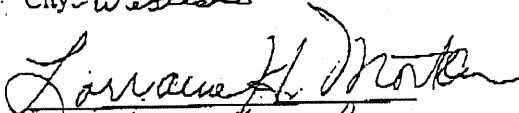
John Street  
Mayor of Philadelphia, PA.

  
City: Newport News, Virginia


Kwame Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit, MI

  
City: Westlake

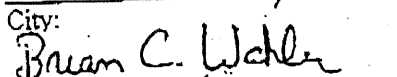
Thomas Menino  
Mayor of Boston, MA

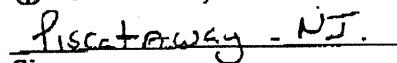
  
City: San Francisco, CA

Gavin Newsom  
Mayor of San Francisco, CA

  
City: Normal, IL

Martin O'Malley  
Mayor of Baltimore, MD

  
City: Piscataway - NJ

  
City: Piscataway - NJ

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and promote  
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**National League  
of Cities**

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Donald J. Borut

**VIA FACSIMILE**

June 21, 2005

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas Petri  
Chair  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee:  
Highways, Transits and Pipelines  
B-370A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee:  
Highways, Transits and Pipelines  
B-370A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Young, Oberstar, Petri, and DeFazio:

On behalf of the nation's municipalities, the National League of Cities (NLC) endorses the concept of dedicated federal funding for stormwater mitigation projects in Section 1620 of H.R. 3, the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Act of 2005* (SAFETEA), recently passed by the Senate.

Municipalities are required under the Clean Water Act to obtain discharge (NPDES) permits for their stormwater. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces like roads and highways is a principal contributor to water quality governed under the NPDES permit. Municipalities must absorb the costs of mitigating discharges from highways in addition to their other stormwater management responsibilities; however, if Congress votes to dedicate a portion of limited HTF resources for this purpose, NLC implores Congress to guarantee that those limited resources are used for stormwater mitigation directly connected to federal-aid highway and associated facility projects only.

NLC is concerned that Section 1620 may invite states to use Highway Trust Fund (HTF) revenue on stormwater mitigation projects not directly related to federal-aid highway and associated facilities. NLC recommends the following amendment to ensure that funds spent under section 1620 may only be spent on projects directly related to federal-aid highway and associated facilities. This change would conform the provision to NLC's National Municipal Policy, which supports using HTF revenue for transportation purposes only:

The Honorable Don Young  
The Honorable James Oberstar  
The Honorable Thomas Petri  
The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
June 17, 2005  
Page Two

(a) Definitions – In this section:

(2) Eligible Mitigation Project – the term “eligible mitigation project” means a practice or technique that for a federal-aid highway and associated facility – (A) improves stormwater discharge water quality; (B) attains preconstruction hydrology; (C) promotes infiltration of stormwater into groundwater; (D) recharges groundwater; (E) minimizes stream bank erosion; (F) promotes natural filters; (G) otherwise mitigates water quality impacts of highway stormwater discharges, improves surface water quality, or enhances groundwater recharge; or, (H) reduces flooding caused by highway stormwater discharge.

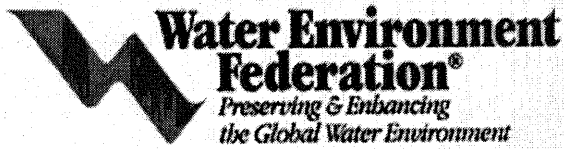
We recommend that the House and Senate conferees adopt this clarifying amendment to H.R. 3 and retain the amended provision in the final conference report. NLC, which serves 49 state municipal leagues and 1,600 direct member cities as the oldest and largest national organization representing municipalities, applauds the diligent efforts in the Senate to address the stormwater mitigation challenge.

Very truly yours,



Donald J. Borut  
Executive Director

**Past Presidents:** Karen Anderson, Mayor, Minnetonka, Minnesota • Clarence E. Anthony, Mayor, South Bay, Florida • William H. Hudnut, III, Mayor, Town of Chevy Chase, Maryland • Sharpe James, Mayor, Newark, New Jersey • Brian J. O'Neill, Councilman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • **Directors:** Lorraine Anderson, Councilmember, Arvada, Colorado • Tommy Baker, Alderman, Osceola, Arkansas • Vickie Barnett, Mayor, Farmington Hills, Michigan • Phil Bazemore, Mayor Pro Tem, Monroe, North Carolina • Daniel Beardsley, Jr., Executive Director, Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns • Thomas Bredeweg, Executive Director, Iowa League of Cities • Kenneth Bueche, Executive Director, Colorado Municipal League • Rosemounda Butler, Council Member, West Columbia, South Carolina • Nora Campos, Councilmember, San Jose, California • Roosevelt Coats, Councilman, Cleveland Ohio • Jim Condos, Council Chair, South Burlington, Vermont • Lisa Dooley, Executive Director, West Virginia Municipal League • Clay Ford, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem, Gulf Breeze, Florida • Eddy Ford, Mayor, Farragut, Tennessee • Danny George, Executive Director, Oklahoma Municipal League, Inc. • Matthew Greller, Executive Director, Indiana Association of Cities and Towns • Ken Harward, Executive Director, Association of Idaho Cities • Lester Heitke, Mayor, Willmar, Minnesota • Jim Higdon, Executive Director, Georgia Municipal League • Ruth Hopkins, Councilmember, Prairie Village, Kansas • Ted Jennings, Mayor, Brewton, Alabama • Ronald Loveridge, Mayor, Riverside, California • Joseph Maestas, Councilor, Española, New Mexico • Michael McGlynn, Mayor, Medford, Massachusetts • James Mitchell, Jr., Council Member, Charlotte, North Carolina • Joe Moore, Alderman, Chicago, Illinois • Ed Oakley, Councilmember, Dallas, Texas • Margaret Peterson, Councilmember At Large, West Valley City, Utah • Dottie Reeder, Mayor, Seminole, Florida • Terry Riley, Council Member, Kansas City, Missouri • John Russo, City Attorney, Oakland, California • Ron Schmitt, Councilor, Sparks, Nevada • Liberato Silva, Vice Mayor, Flagstaff, Arizona • Shep Stahel, Mayor Pro Tem, Plano, Texas • Charleta Tavares, Council Member, Columbus, Ohio • Ted Tedesco, Mayor, Ames, Iowa • Dick Traini, Assembly Chairman, Anchorage, Alaska • Jacques Wigginton, Councilmember, Lexington, Kentucky • Evelyn Woodson, Councilor, Columbus, Georgia



May 20, 2005

The Honorable Don Young, Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

*via Facsimile 202-225-6782*

The Honorable James Oberstar, Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*via Facsimile 202-225-6782*

The Honorable Tom Petri, Chairman  
Highways, Transit and Pipelines Subcommittee  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
B370-A Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

*via Facsimile 202-225-4623*

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Ranking Member  
Highways, Transit and Pipelines Subcommittee  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
B370-A Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

*via Facsimile 202-225-4623*

Dear Representatives Young, Oberstar, Petri, and DeFazio:

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) urges you to support a dedicated funding program to mitigate the negative impacts of stormwater runoff from our nation's highways. **The Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program was included in the Senate Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA) bill, S. 1072, in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.** It is critical that this program be included in this year's version of the transportation bill.

According to U.S. EPA, contaminated stormwater is the largest contributor to the impairment of water quality in U.S. coastal waters and the second largest source of impairment in estuaries. Contaminated stormwater is also the single largest factor in beach closures and advisories. The cost to address these problems is large, too. The U.S. EPA estimates at least \$8.3 billion over 20 years in local funding needs to address Clean Water Act stormwater requirements, and an additional \$142 billion to address stormwater infiltration and other problems in separate and combined sewer systems.

**President**  
Lynn H. Orphan, P.E.  
*Reno, NV*

**President-Elect**  
J. Michael Read  
*Portland, OR*

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Mike Godfrey  
*Birmingham, AL*

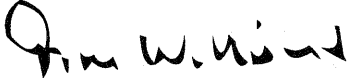
**Past President**  
Lawrence P. Jaworski, P.E.  
*Upper Marlboro, MD*

**Executive Director**  
William J. Bertera  
*Alexandria, VA*

Congress has recognized that contaminated runoff from highways is a significant source of water quality impairment in previous highway bills (ISTEA and TEA-21), but has not succeeded in getting adequate funding directed toward this problem. A dedicated fund to address stormwater impacts from existing federal aid highways will help to prevent further degradation of streams, lakes, and beach waters. This funding will benefit all Americans by helping communities comply with Clean Water Act stormwater requirements and to clean up waters impaired by highway runoff.

On behalf of the members of the Water Environment Federation, who are professionals working to protect water quality around the world, thank you for your support of this important provision that will help to improve the nation's water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "W".

Tim Williams  
Managing Director, Government Affairs



A Clear Commitment to America's Waters

PRESIDENT

**Donnie R. Wheeler**  
General Manager  
Hampton Roads  
Sanitation District  
Virginia Beach, VA

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Public Works General Counsel  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA

SECRETARY

**Marian Orfeo**  
Director of Planning & Coordination  
Massachusetts Water  
Resources Authority  
Boston, MA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Ken Kirk**

May 17, 2005

The Honorable Don Young, Chair  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas E. Petri  
Chair  
Highways, Transit and  
Pipelines  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2462 Rayburn House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Highways, Transit and Pipelines  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

***RE: Support for the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program in the Transportation Equity Act***

Dear Members of Congress:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Transportation Equity Act passed March 16 by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Committee's bill includes an important provision that authorizes \$867.6 million over five years for stormwater mitigation projects, using just 2% of the Surface Transportation Program funds. Such projects include stormwater retrofits, the recharge of groundwater, natural filters, stream restoration, minimization of stream bank erosion, innovative technologies, and others.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, polluted stormwater from impervious surfaces such as roads is a leading cause of impairment for nearly 40% of U.S. waterways not meeting water quality standards. Roadways produce some of the highest concentrations of pollutants such as phosphorus, suspended solids, bacteria, and heavy metals.

National Association of  
Clean Water Agencies  
1816 Jefferson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-2505

p 202.833.2672 f 202.833.4657  
www.nacwa.org • info@nacwa.org

May 17, 2005

Page 2

NACWA represents hundreds of publicly owned treatment works, many of which have municipal stormwater management responsibilities. Your continued support for the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program in the Transportation Equity Act would provide much-needed support to these communities. Thank you for your leadership and please feel free to contact me at 202/833-4653 if NACWA can provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Ken Kirk

Executive Director



## Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

1620 I Street, NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20006

202-331-2820 fax 785-1845

www.amwa.net

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Edmund Archuleta  
El Paso Water Utilities

David Denig-Chakroff  
Madison Water Utility

Diane VanDe Hei  
Executive Director

May 17, 2005

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman, Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas E. Petri  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Highways, Transit and Pipelines  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Highways, Transit and Pipelines  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water systems, I write today to express support for the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program during conference negotiations over the Transportation Equity Act.

This language makes progress toward addressing the billions of dollars in costs that state and local governments will incur to control stormwater generated by our nation's highways.

Stormwater runoff has a significant effect on thousands of miles of the nation's rivers and streams. The bill acknowledges this impact and assists states and communities in addressing this growing water quality problem.

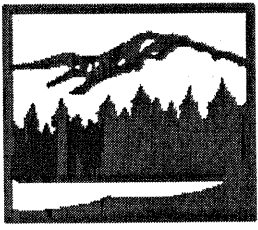
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei  
Executive Director

CC: Other House Transportation Equity Act conferees





**ECOS**

THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COUNCIL OF  
THE STATES

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444 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 445  
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Tel: (202) 624-3660  
Fax: (202) 624-3666  
Email: [ecos@ssso.org](mailto:ecos@ssso.org)  
Webpage: [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org)

-----  
Steven A. Thompson  
Executive Director, Oklahoma  
Department of Environmental  
Quality  
PRESIDENT

Stephanie Hallock  
Director, Oregon Department of  
Environmental Quality  
VICE PRESIDENT

Robert W. King  
Deputy Commissioner  
South Carolina Dept. of  
Health and Environmental  
Control  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Ronald F. Hammerschmidt  
Director, Division of Environment  
Kansas Department of Health  
and Environment  
PAST PRESIDENT

-----  
R. Steven Brown  
Executive Director

May 17, 2005

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas E. Petri  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Highways, Transit  
and Pipelines  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Highways, Transit  
and Pipelines  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young, Ranking Member Oberstar, Chairman Petri, and Ranking  
Member DeFazio:

On behalf of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS\*), I'm writing to request  
your support for the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program, the new  
provision included in the Transportation Equity Act.

ECOS strongly supports the provision because stormwater compliance is a serious issue  
for the states and this provision provides for \$867 million over five years, specifically  
for stormwater mitigation projects associated with the nation's federal-aid highways.  
The provision would provide states with much needed resources to help meet  
stormwater and water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act. These funds are  
particularly critical during this time of budgetary constraints.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further. I may be  
reached at 202-624-3660.

Sincerely,

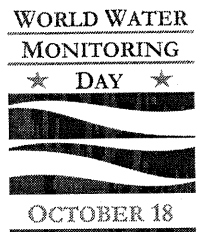
R. Steven Brown  
Executive Director

\*ECOS is the national, non-profit, non-partisan association of state and  
territorial environmental commissioners.



ASIWPCA

Association of State and Interstate  
Water Pollution Control Administrators



750 FIRST ST., NE • SUITE 1010 • WASHINGTON, DC 20002 • TEL: 202.898.0905 • FAX: 202.898.0929 • WWW.ASIWPCA.ORG

June 8, 2005

The Honorable Don Young  
Chair  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6262

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6262

The Honorable Thomas Petri  
Chair  
House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit  
And Pipelines  
B-376 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6262

The Honorable Peter Defazio  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit  
And Pipelines  
B-376 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6262

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA), I urge your support for the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program, Section 1620 of the Senate SAFETEA bill, S. 1072, in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. This new and modest program is designed to address stormwater runoff from the nation's existing transportation system. Stormwater runoff is a significant source of water pollution affecting large and small communities, as well as fish, wildlife and the natural environment.


Stormwater pollution results from paving over naturally porous ground, resulting in impervious surfaces that collect pollutants and increase overland stormwater volume and velocity. Stormwater becomes a direct conduit for pollution into the nation's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Studies have shown that roads contribute a large number of pollutants to urban runoff – metals, used motor oil, grease, coolants and antifreeze, spilled gasoline, nutrients from vehicle exhaust, and sediment. For example, the stormwater discharge from one square mile of roads and parking lots can contribute about 20,000 gallons of residual oil per year into the nation's drinking water supplies. Highways can increase the annual volume of stormwater discharges by up to 16 times the pre-development rate and reduce groundwater recharge.

Communities throughout the nation, including many smaller towns and counties, are required under the Clean Water Act to obtain discharge (NPDES) permits for their stormwater. Those communities, which have long understood the value of protecting their drinking water sources and recreational waters from stormwater impacts, are hard-pressed to absorb the costs of discharges from highways in addition to their

other stormwater management responsibilities. This presents an unfair burden to these communities and we believe it is fair for the transportation funding system to help remedy this problem where existing highways and other roads cause significant runoff problems.

We urge you to continue to demonstrate your leadership in protecting America's waters by supporting the stormwater mitigation provision in SAFETEA. We appreciate your willingness to consider the views of the State and Interstate Water Pollution Program officials responsible for the protection and enhancement of the nation's water quality resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.  
President

Cc: ASIWPCA Membership