

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2005

Honorable Conrad Burns, Chairman
Honorable Byron Dorgan, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Burns and Ranking Member Dorgan:

As the Committee prepares to consider the fiscal year 2006 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to restore funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to at least the fiscal year 2004 level of \$1.35 billion. The proposed cuts would have a devastating impact on the ability of our states and communities to continue upgrading their wastewater infrastructure and meeting Clean Water Act requirements; the attached table shows the state-by-state impacts of the proposed cuts. We urge you to support at least the President's fiscal year 2006 budget level of \$850 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which helps communities ensure safe drinking water.

Despite important progress over the last three decades, EPA reports that 40 percent of our nation's assessed waters are still too impaired for fishing or swimming. Discharges from aging and failing sewerage systems, urban storm water, and other sources continue to pose serious threats to our nation's lakes, rivers and estuaries, endangering not only public health but fishing and recreation industries. Population growth and development are placing additional stress on the nation's water infrastructure and its ability to sustain hard-won water quality gains.

Investments in water infrastructure have a well-documented record of success in job creation and economic development. According to the American Public Works Association, every billion dollars invested in water and wastewater infrastructure construction creates over 40,000 jobs. Critical sectors of our economy rely on clean water. These sectors include the \$45 billion commercial fishing industry; the soft drink manufacturers that generate \$54 billion in sales; and the manufacturing sector that uses more than 13 trillion gallons of clean water each year.

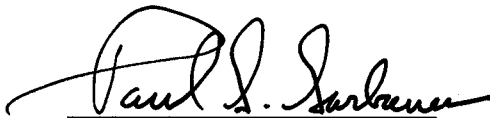
The President's budget proposes to cut clean water infrastructure funding by more than 33 percent, which will exacerbate the current backlog of water infrastructure projects. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the spending gap for clean water needs between \$132 billion and \$388 billion over 20 years and the spending gap for drinking water needs between \$70 billion and \$362 billion over 20 years. EPA's *Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis* found that there would be a \$535 billion backlog of water and

wastewater infrastructure projects by 2019 if additional investments are not made. The fiscal year 2006 Senate Budget Resolution expressed the Sense of the Senate that the Federal government should provide \$1.35 billion for clean water infrastructure funding.

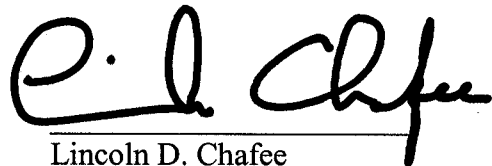
Over the last two Congresses, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has reported legislation with bi-partisan support for funding levels to \$3.2 billion annually for the Clean Water SRF and \$2 billion annually for the Drinking Water SRF. These funding levels have been widely supported by the Senate during prior year budget and appropriations processes.

We understand the constraints that are facing the committee this fiscal year, but we feel that the federal government must sustain a strong partnership with states and local governments to avert this massive projected backlog and fulfill its share of the burden of maintaining and improving the nation's water infrastructure. Therefore, although a much higher level of federal investment can be justified, we urge you to restore funding for the Clean Water SRF to \$1.35 billion and maintain funding for the Drinking Water SRF at \$850 million as a minimum level for protecting the safety of our water.

Sincerely,



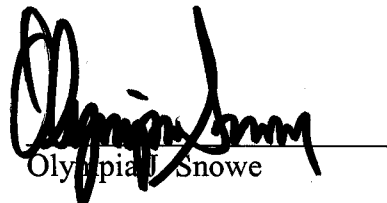
Paul S. Sarbanes



Lincoln D. Chafee



James M. Jeffords



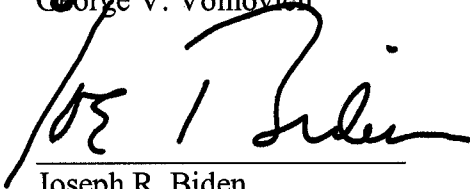
Olympia Snowe



George V. Voinovich



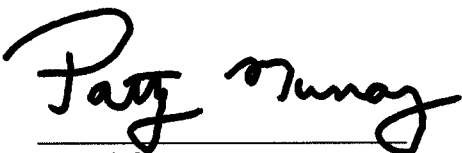
Hillary Rodham Clinton



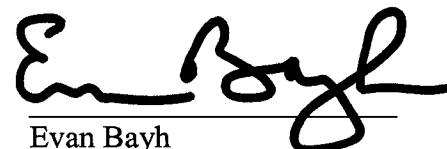
Joseph R. Biden




Debbie Stabenow



Patty Murray



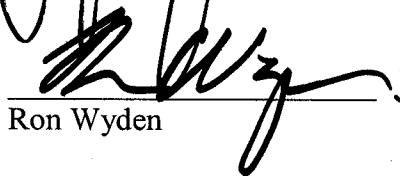
Evan Bayh



Susan M. Collins



Jeff Bingaman



Ron Wyden



Mike DeWine



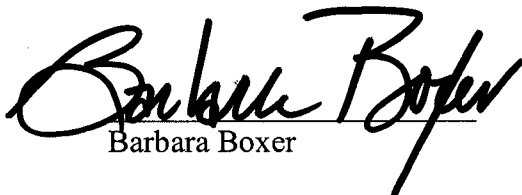
Barack Obama



Frank R. Lautenberg



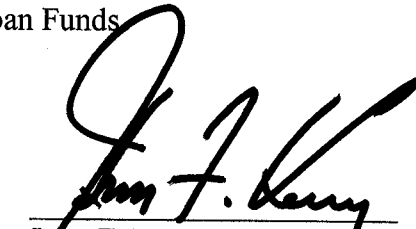
Patrick J. Leahy



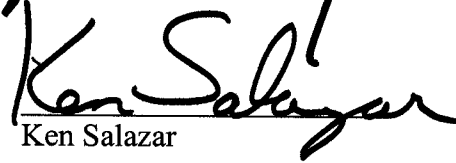
Barbara Boxer



Mark Dayton



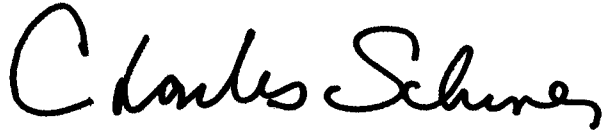
John F. Kerry



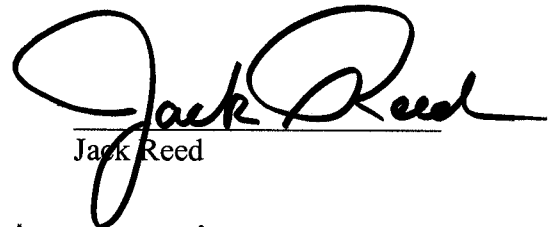
Ken Salazar



Joseph I. Lieberman



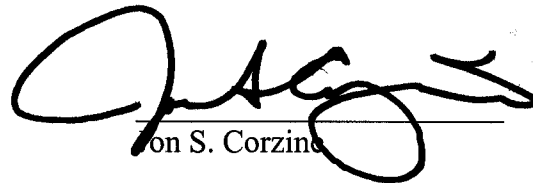
Charles E. Schumer



Jack Reed



Lisa Murkowski



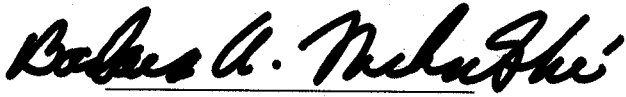
Tom S. Corzine




Gordon H. Smith



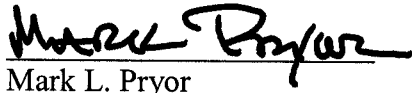
Richard Durbin



Barbara A. Mikulski



Maria Cantwell



Mark L. Pryor



Max Baucus



Mary L. Landrieu




Russell D. Feingold



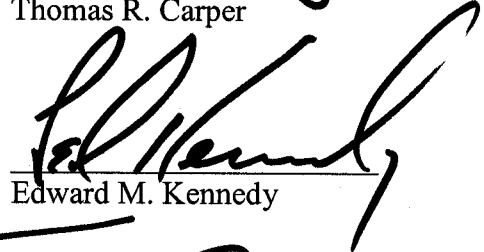
Christopher J. Dodd



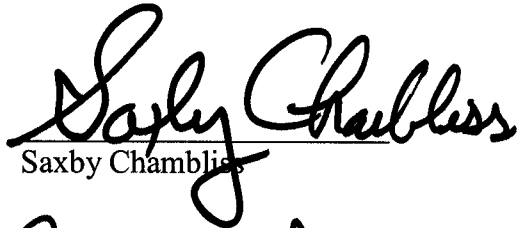
Thomas R. Carper



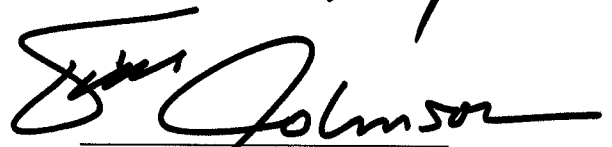
Daniel K. Akaka



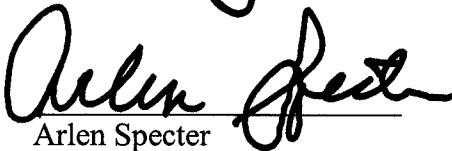
Edward M. Kennedy



Saxby Chambliss



Tim Johnson



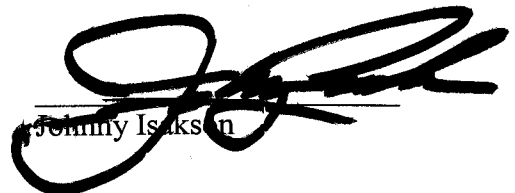
Arlen Specter



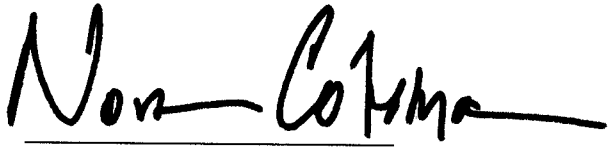
Carl Levin



Tom Harkin



Johnny Isakson



Norm Coleman



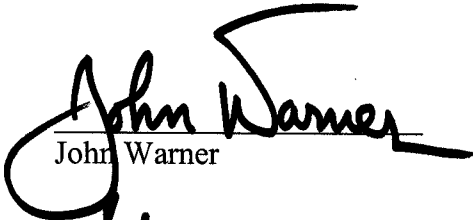
Bill Nelson



George Allen



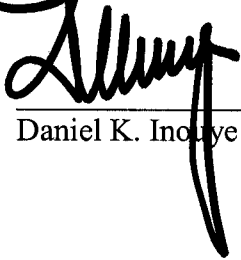
Blanche L. Lincoln



John Warner



John D. Rockefeller IV



Daniel K. Inouye

CWSRF: Estimated Impact of the Fiscal 2006 Budget Proposal on State Allotments with Appropriations at \$730 Million

Northeast-Midwest Institute calculations based on information from the president's fiscal 2006 budget proposal on Clean Water State Revolving Funds and data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Allotments exclude dollars for Puerto Rico, the territories, and Indian Tribes. Fiscal 2006 estimates for state dollars are based upon shares of total program funding in fiscal 2005.

State or Region	Fiscal 2004 Allotments for \$1.34 Billion	Fiscal 2005 Allotments for \$1.09 Billion	Estimated Fiscal 2006 Allotments (Proposed)	Difference Fiscal 2005 to Fiscal 2006 (Proposed)	Difference Fiscal 2004 to Fiscal 2006 (Proposed)
Alabama	14,968,800	12,171,000	8,142,256	-4,028,744	-6,826,544
Alaska	8,011,900	6,514,400	4,358,057	-2,156,343	-3,653,843
Arizona	9,041,600	7,351,700	4,918,201	-2,433,499	-4,123,399
Arkansas	8,757,100	7,120,300	4,763,397	-2,356,903	-3,993,703
California	95,741,300	77,846,600	52,078,462	-25,768,138	-43,662,838
Colorado	10,708,100	8,706,700	5,824,680	-2,882,020	-4,883,420
Connecticut	16,399,600	13,334,400	8,920,557	-4,413,843	-7,479,043
Delaware	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
District of Columbia	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
Florida	45,187,000	36,741,300	24,579,499	-12,161,801	-20,607,501
Georgia	22,633,900	18,403,500	12,311,726	-6,091,774	-10,322,174
Hawaii	10,367,900	8,430,100	5,639,638	-2,790,462	-4,728,262
Idaho	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
Illinois	60,543,600	49,227,600	32,932,687	-16,294,913	-27,610,913
Indiana	32,261,900	26,231,900	17,548,833	-8,683,067	-14,713,067
Iowa	18,117,700	14,731,400	9,855,134	-4,876,266	-8,262,566
Kansas	12,083,300	9,824,900	6,572,743	-3,252,157	-5,510,557
Kentucky	17,037,600	13,853,200	9,267,628	-4,585,572	-7,769,972
Louisiana	14,716,000	11,965,500	8,004,779	-3,960,721	-6,711,221
Maine	10,362,600	8,425,800	5,636,761	-2,789,039	-4,725,839
Maryland	32,377,000	26,325,600	17,611,518	-8,714,082	-14,765,482
Massachusetts	45,450,400	36,955,400	24,722,729	-12,232,671	-20,727,671
Michigan	57,560,200	46,801,800	31,309,855	-15,491,945	-26,250,345
Minnesota	24,604,700	20,006,000	13,383,779	-6,622,221	-11,220,921
Mississippi	12,060,800	9,806,600	6,560,500	-3,246,100	-5,500,300
Missouri	37,110,300	30,174,100	20,186,119	-9,987,981	-16,924,181
Montana	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
Nebraska	6,847,100	5,567,300	3,724,458	-1,842,842	-3,122,642
Nevada	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
New Hampshire	13,377,800	10,877,400	7,276,853	-3,600,547	-6,100,947
New Jersey	54,703,800	44,479,300	29,756,130	-14,723,170	-24,947,670
New Mexico	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
New York	147,758,000	120,140,700	80,372,719	-39,767,981	-67,385,281
North Carolina	24,160,000	19,644,300	13,141,806	-6,502,494	-11,018,194
North Dakota	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
Ohio	75,361,500	61,276,000	40,992,925	-20,283,075	-34,368,575
Oklahoma	10,815,300	8,793,800	5,882,949	-2,910,851	-4,932,351
Oregon	15,122,300	12,295,900	8,225,813	-4,070,087	-6,896,487
Pennsylvania	53,026,800	43,115,800	28,843,964	-14,271,836	-24,182,836
Rhode Island	8,988,700	7,308,600	4,889,368	-2,419,232	-4,099,332
South Carolina	13,714,000	11,150,800	7,459,754	-3,691,046	-6,254,246
South Dakota	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
Tennessee	19,446,600	15,811,900	10,577,976	-5,233,924	-8,868,624
Texas	61,185,600	49,749,600	33,281,899	-16,467,701	-27,903,701
Utah	7,053,600	5,735,200	3,836,782	-1,898,418	-3,216,818

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State or Region	Fiscal 2004 Allotments for \$1.34 Billion	Fiscal 2005 Allotments for \$1.09 Billion	Estimated Fiscal 2006 Allotments (Proposed)	Difference Fiscal 2005 to Fiscal 2006 (Proposed)	Difference Fiscal 2004 to Fiscal 2006 (Proposed)
Vermont	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
Virginia	27,396,300	22,275,700	14,902,182	-7,373,518	-12,494,118
Washington	23,279,800	18,928,700	12,663,078	-6,265,622	-10,616,722
West Virginia	20,868,200	16,967,800	11,351,259	-5,616,541	-9,516,941
Wisconsin	36,190,400	29,426,200	19,685,783	-9,740,417	-16,504,617
Wyoming	6,571,800	5,343,500	3,574,739	-1,768,761	-2,997,061
U.S. Total	1,301,117,100	1,057,929,800	707,742,626	-350,187,174	-593,374,474