

Help Communities Reduce Water Pollution

Fund EPA Partnership to Promote Green Infrastructure Solutions

May 1, 2007

Dear Colleague,

I hope you will join me in sending the attached letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior requesting funding for an Environmental Protection Agency initiative on green infrastructure, including \$10 million for pilot project grants.

Communities across the nation are searching for efficient ways to clean waters that have been polluted from stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows. The cost of replacing aging and deteriorating water systems with new pumps and pipes have left many communities searching for more cost effective way to improve water quality.

Many of these communities have recognized the benefits of using green infrastructure to accomplish these goals; however, existing federal regulations do not adequately encourage the use of these approaches.

On April 19, 2007, the EPA signed an agreement with the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators, and the Low Impact Development Center to establish a public-private partnership to promote green infrastructure approaches to control sewer overflows and stormwater pollution.

Adequate funding is necessary to ensure that this partnership can provide additional guidance to communities that choose innovative and environmentally friendly approaches.

If you would like to sign the letter or to get more information, please contact John Sherry of my staff, at x5-6111 or john.sherry@mail.house.gov.

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ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

Member of Congress