



Association of
Metropolitan
Sewerage Agencies

President
Thomas R. "Buddy" Morgan
General Manager
Water Works & Sanitary
Sewer Board
Montgomery, AL

February 18, 2004

Vice President
William B. Schatz
General Counsel
Northeast Ohio Regional
Sewer District
Cleveland, OH

The Honorable Robert Riley
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

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

Dear Governor Riley:

On behalf of the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) I am pleased to provide you with a February 2004 nationwide survey by prominent pollster and communications expert Frank Luntz, which reveals the overwhelming support of the American people for a national clean water trust fund to finance our nation's wastewater infrastructure system.

Secretary
Dick Champion, Jr.
Director
Water Pollution Control
Department
Independence, MO

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) all agree there is a national funding gap as high as \$1 trillion over the next twenty years for water infrastructure. The economic and public health implications to the nation and virtually all local communities are staggering.

Executive Director
Ken Kirk

The 2004 Luntz survey indicates broad, bipartisan public support for national, long-term, dedicated funding.

- 91% of Americans are concerned that the nation's waterways will not be clean for future generations;
- 90% of Americans support a dedicated funding source for clean and safe water;
- 83% would support a bill introduced in the U.S. Congress that would create a long-term, sustainable and reliable trust fund for clean water infrastructure; and
- 66% believe it is unfair and unjust that the federal government pays for just 5% of the cost to maintain clean water in America.

Hundreds of billions of dollars are invested nationally for highways and airports but the federal government funds less than 5% of the cost to maintain clean water infrastructure. Highways and airways enjoy dedicated federal funding, begging the question "are they more important than the nation's waterways?" Absolutely not, say the majority of Americans.

We urge you to share the enclosed survey results with your colleagues, your citizens, and business and industry in your state. Clean water has no state boundaries. The clean water funding gap is a national problem that requires a national solution. Please join the American people in support of the creation of a clean water trust fund *now*. For further information or to voice your support, please call me at (202) 833-4653.

Sincerely,

Ken Kirk
Executive Director