



January 28, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressional Leaders,

With the start of the 116th Congress, lawmakers have the opportunity to make a historic investment to rebuild our nation's infrastructure. At the Clean Water Council (CWC), we are a coalition of national organizations representing underground utility construction contractors, design professionals, manufacturers, suppliers, labor representatives, construction materials, and other organizations committed to ensuring a healthy quality of life through sound water infrastructure. Members of the CWC are writing to highlight the significant needs in our nation's underground water infrastructure and to urge you to address these needs in any infrastructure package that Congress considers.

Our nation's underground water infrastructure ensures that Americans have access to clean drinking water, provides businesses with the resources they need to keep our economy moving, and protects our nation's waterways, beaches, and other recreational opportunities. Taken together, well-functioning water infrastructure is indispensable to the health of our country.

Unfortunately, this infrastructure is in serious need of repair. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most recent assessments, \$472.6 billion is needed to maintain and improve drinking water systems and \$271 billion will be needed for wastewater and stormwater treatment systems over the next twenty years. The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) report card gives our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure a D and D+, respectively. We see the evidence of these needs through daily stories of broken water pipes and other critical infrastructure failures.

With a renewed interest in infrastructure, Congress has an opportunity to address these challenges in a bipartisan way. Making these investments and improvements to water utilities would have multiple positive benefits.

First and foremost, addressing underground water infrastructure will lead to better public health outcomes. Whether it is preventing harmful pollution from entering our waterways, or protecting against tragedies like lead poisoning, water infrastructure gets the job done. To quantify these impacts, a recent study conducted by the College of William & Mary's Public Policy Program found that a single dollar spent on drinking water infrastructure generates hundreds of dollars in public health benefits.

In addition to health benefits, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments also generate economic activity and support high-paying jobs. *Sudden Impact*, a study previously conducted by the CWC, found that \$1 billion invested in water infrastructure has the potential to create 20,003 to 26,669 jobs. Furthermore, a study by the Value of Water Campaign found that jobs and careers in the water infrastructure sector offer an average wage of \$63,000 per year, and many of these opportunities are available to individuals with only a high school diploma.

In the 116th Congress, the CWC will be working to highlight these infrastructure needs and how lawmakers can address them. We urge you to include investment in water infrastructure as part of any infrastructure package.

Respectfully,

Members of the Clean Water Council

American Concrete Pavement Association
American Concrete Pipe Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Public Works Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Supply Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association
Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute
International Union of Operating Engineers
National Association of Sewer Service Companies
National Precast Concrete Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
National Utility Contractors Association
Nulca – representing utility locating professionals
Plastics Pipe Institute
Portland Cement Association
Water & Sewer Distributors of America
Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association

Cc: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee