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AGC of America
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
Quality People. Quality Projects.



May 13, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support the Water Infrastructure Financing Act of 2009, S. 1005

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) I am writing to urge your support for S. 1005, the Water Infrastructure Financing Act of 2009. S. 1005 authorizes \$38.9 billion over five years for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and other water quality improvements.

Often out of sight and mind, our nation's wastewater infrastructure is aging and in need of repair. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated that our nation must invest between \$390 and \$500 billion over the next 20 years in order to repair or replace existing systems to comply with water quality standards and to meet increasing demand for drinking water and wastewater treatment. Since the enactment of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act over thirty years ago, significant progress has been made in protecting groundwater and cleaning up our lakes, rivers, and streams. Unfortunately there is still much work to be done.

S. 1005 provides investments in several important water quality programs. The bill would reauthorize the highly successful, but undercapitalized, Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs at a level of \$20 billion and \$15 billion respectively over the next five years. These funds provide low-interest loans and additional loan subsidizations to communities for critical drinking and wastewater infrastructure. The bill also provides \$1.85 billion for sewer overflow control grants, creates a new Agricultural Pollution Control SRF, and includes technical assistance grants for small systems and critical watershed improvements.

In addition to important water quality gains, passage of S.1005 will build upon the unprecedented investments Congress is making in water infrastructure through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act which is providing needed infrastructure investment and putting construction contractors and their employees back to work. Again, AGC strongly urges your support of S.1005 when it comes up for a vote in the EPW Committee on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Shoaf".

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director
Government and Public Affairs