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



May 25, 2010

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support H.R. 5320, The “Assistance, Quality, And Affordability Act Of 2010”**

Dear Chairman Waxman,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America, and our 33,000 member companies, I am writing you today to ask you to support H.R. 5320, the “Assistance, Quality, And Affordability Act Of 2010.” This legislation authorizes \$4.8 billion dollars over three years for the EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) which will help ensure consistency, giving communities the ability to leverage federal dollars and plan capital improvements. In addition to ensuring public health and safety, H.R. 5320 represents a smart investment in the nation’s outdated drinking water infrastructure that will put Americans back to work.

America's aging water infrastructure is in need of replacement and rehabilitation. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), an average of six billion gallons of potable water is lost per day in the U.S. due to leaking pipes. Last year alone, American communities suffered more than 240,000 water main breaks and billions of gallons of overflowing combined sewer systems, causing contamination, property damage, disruptions in the water supply, and massive traffic jams. Unfortunately, our nation’s water infrastructure needs have grown while federal funding for clean water and drinking water infrastructure has steadily declined until the advent of the Recovery Act. This lack of federal investment is pushing more costs on local governments and ratepayers, whose rates have grown at twice the rate of inflation in recent years.

Studies have shown that investment in water infrastructure creates jobs and contributes significantly to economic growth. Water quality, public health and the long-term competitiveness of our nation will all benefit from the critical investments called for in this legislation. Water infrastructure is a bipartisan issue and this legislation recognizes that each of our states is struggling with the problems associated with outdated treatment facilities and crumbling water systems.

By investing in our nation’s critical water infrastructure, H.R. 5320 will build a foundation for future economic growth while generating the construction, manufacturing, and engineering jobs that are needed today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Perry L. Fowler', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Perry L. Fowler  
Director, Municipal and Utilities Construction Division