



January 23, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran,

As America's leading construction, engineering, conservation, labor, municipal, and manufacturing organizations, we strongly support the inclusion of \$20 billion for ready-to-go wastewater infrastructure, including green infrastructure, projects in the economic recovery package now being developed. This timely investment is a down payment on our nation's critical water infrastructure and would generate approximately 700,000 domestic jobs in construction, manufacturing, and engineering.

In recent days, there have been questions raised about the timely distribution of infrastructure funding contained in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. We are confident that water infrastructure funding can be put to work in short order, and we strongly recommend that provisions requiring the timely distribution of water infrastructure funding be included in the Senate economic stimulus package. For example, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* requires EPA to distribute stimulus funding to the states within 30 days. Under the approach being advanced in the House of Representatives, states have up to two years to obligate funds targeted to water infrastructure projects. We would urge that the states be given 120 days to distribute water infrastructure funding to communities with ready-to-go projects.

Survey information compiled by our municipal members and by state water pollution control agencies indicate that a minimum of \$20 billion in wastewater infrastructure projects, including green infrastructure projects, stand ready to go nationwide. A list of some these ready-to-go projects is attached for your review.

Our nation's daunting water infrastructure needs are well documented. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Government Accountability Office, and the Water Infrastructure Network have all projected shortfalls in clean water infrastructure funding approaching \$500 billion over the next 20 years, with the annual shortfall estimated at approximately \$23 billion. Again, we are confident that including \$20 billion for wastewater and green infrastructure in the economic recovery package will create approximately 700,000 needed jobs in the short term, enhance America's competitiveness in the future, and dramatically improve water quality and the environment.

Water infrastructure projects are uniquely positioned to deliver quality jobs in a timely fashion. Under the existing Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund program, states are required to compile and maintain intended use plan lists, indicating priority water infrastructure projects

for financing. With minor modifications to the existing administrative structures established for distributing funds under the Clean Water Act, \$20 billion in water infrastructure funding can be expeditiously distributed to communities and contractors across the nation.

The 52 construction, engineering, conservation, labor, municipal, and manufacturing organizations that comprise the Water Infrastructure Network are committed to working with the Environment and Public Works Committee to secure timely investments in ready-to-go water infrastructure projects.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding our request or the data supporting the inclusion of \$20 billion in the economic recovery package.

Sincerely,

- **National Association of Clean Water Agencies**
- **Associated General Contractors of America**
- **American Society of Civil Engineers**
- **American Public Works Association**
- **American Council of Engineering Companies**
- **American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association**
- **International Union of Operating Engineers**
- **International Union of Bricklayers**
- **Laborers International of North America**
- **United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices in the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry**
- **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**
- **Water Environment Federation**
- **Western Coalition of Arid States**
- **Food and Water Watch**
- **Clean Water Action**
- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**
- **Natural Resources Defense Council**
- **Riverkeeper**
- **Trout Unlimited**
- **Ducks Unlimited**
- **American Sportfishing Association**
- **Rural Community Assistance Partnership**
- **Association of California Water Agencies**
- **Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**
- **United Brotherhood of Carpenters**
- **Design Build Institute of America**
- **California Rebuild America Coalition**
- **Associated Equipment Distributors**
- **Association of Equipment Manufacturers**
- **National Construction Alliance**
- **Clean Water Construction Coalition**
- **Construction Management Association of America**
- **Association of Equipment Manufacturers**
- **American Supply Association**
- **Vinyl Institute**
- **Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association**
- **Pipe Rehabilitation Council**
- **Portland Cement Association**
- **National Ready Mix Concrete Association**
- **California Association of Sanitation Agencies**

- **National Association of Towns and Townships**
- **National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies**
- **North American Power Sweeping Association**
- **Environmental and Energy Study Institute**
- **Underground Contractors Association of Illinois**
- **Vermeer Corp**

- **National Society of Professional Engineers**