



Environmental Council of the States

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(202) 266-4920 | www.ecos.org

September 20, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Appropriations Leaders:

On behalf of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of top environmental agency leaders for all of the states, we urge Congress to appropriate fully authorized funding levels for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs). These programs deliver proven, lasting results for clean water, healthy communities and ecosystems, and vibrant economies.

The SRFs are two of the nation's most successful and sustainable environmental programs, providing affordable financial assistance for thousands of communities to build clean and safe water infrastructure to protect public health and grow the economy. Water infrastructure projects may include, but are not limited to, traditional water treatment/upgrades, consolidation, water supply facilities, collection, interceptors, reuse, green infrastructure, nonpoint source protection, watershed protection including following fire events, resiliency programs, energy-efficiency programs, and other eligible projects as defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act.

Elizabeth Biser
North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality
ECOS President

Jon Niermann
Texas Commission on
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ECOS Vice President

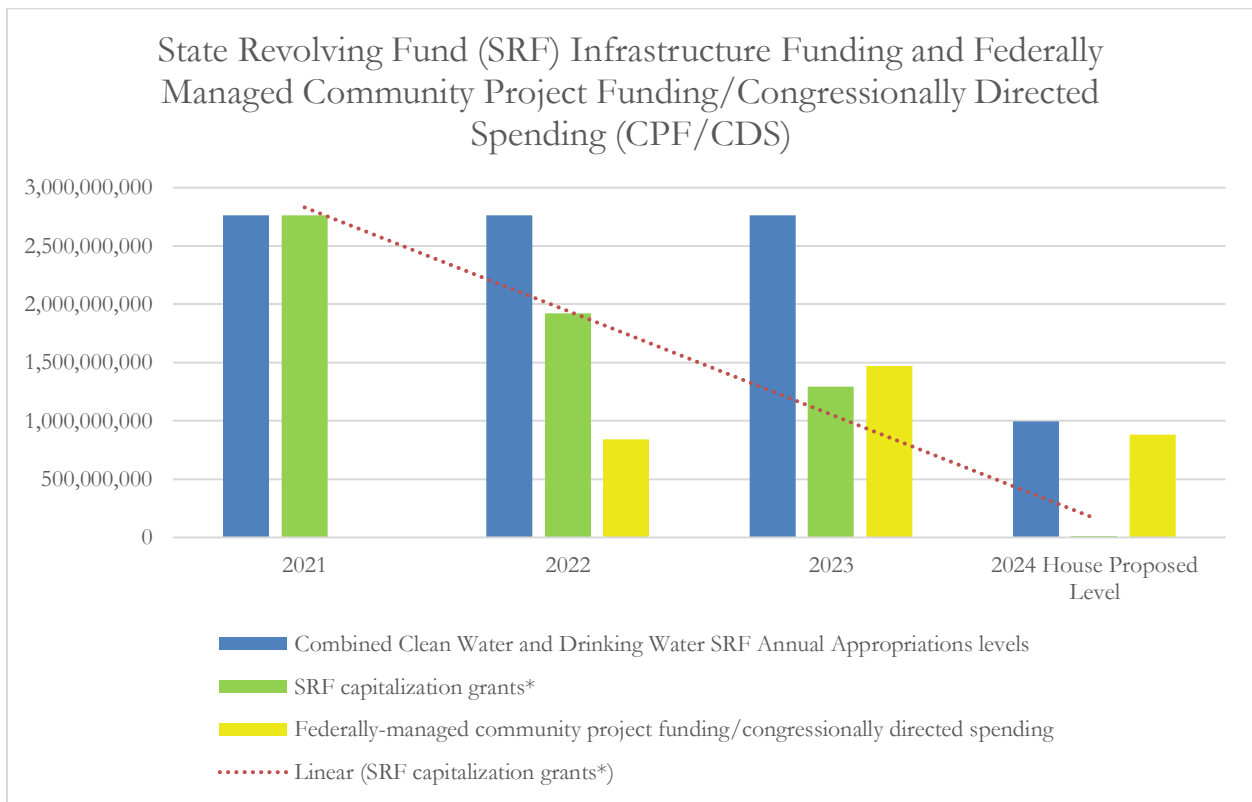
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New Mexico Environment
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ECOS Secretary-Treasurer

Myra Reece
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ECOS Past President

Ben Grumbles
ECOS Executive Director

States have serious concerns about proposed congressional committee actions that would significantly reduce SRF capitalization grants and set a troubling precedent with significant cascading consequences. Reductions through community project funding/congressionally directed spending (CPF/CDS) erode both the short- and long-term buying power of established state infrastructure programs, which leverage federal investments and grow public-private partnerships to meet future needs. Proposed CPF/CDS projects create uncertainty for community planning and unbalanced results on the ground. The proposed actions also would shift funding from state management to federal management, which imposes additional paperwork on states and locates project administration farther from the communities to be served.

SRF funding by design also provides resources to state public water system programs. Therefore, a reduction of SRF dollars drives down state core program resources that support seasoned state staff that work with communities to meet regulatory requirements to protect public health and the environment. Moreover, the erosion of base capitalization awards dramatically reduces states' ability to provide additional subsidy to communities seeking SRF support. Additional subsidy is often essential to rural and economically disadvantaged communities to make whole the financing of their projects and keep water and sewer rates affordable for users.

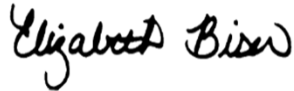


- Sources: FY22 EPA Budget in Brief, pg. 34 (FY21); P.L 117-103, pg. 334 (FY22); P.L. 117-328, pg. 335 (FY23); FY24 House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies - Bill Report, pg. 70
- *Includes a small amount of EPA administrative and other costs

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We, the undersigned states, urge you to restore funding for – and fully appropriate – authorized funding levels for the SRFs, and to reexamine the way in which CPS/CDS are funded. ECOS calls on Congress to build state capacity, not diminish it, and to support the established SRF programs by not diverting federal SRF funding to pay for other priority projects. Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out to ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles at bgrumbles@ecos.org or (202) 266-4920 if you or your staff have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Biser
ECOS President
North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality



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ECOS Secretary-Treasurer
New Mexico Environment Department



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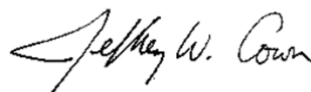
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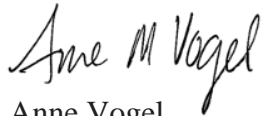
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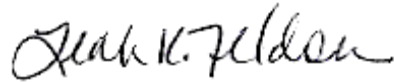
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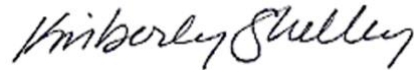
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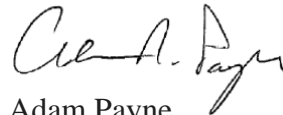
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cc: Bill McBride, National Governors Association
Jack Waldorf, Western Governors' Association