



March 23, 2021

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

Water is essential for life and livelihoods.

The Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA), which represents the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), fully supports The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. The legislation reflects the critical role of federal investment in building water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment, which are the foundation of vibrant communities and robust economies.

The need for federal investment is significant and growing.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the need for capital investment for water infrastructure was \$129 billion for 2019, while actual total spending on capital investment in water infrastructure was \$48 billion, leaving a gap of \$81 billion or nearly twice the amount of actual spending. If this trend continues, this gap is expected to grow to \$434 billion by 2029. Reauthorizing the SRFs and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act for SRFs (SWIFIA) will maintain critical financing tools to help close that gap.

The SRFs are the nation's premier programs for funding water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment.

Every year, the SRFs efficiently and effectively deliver more than \$2 billion in federal and state funding for water infrastructure projects in thousands of communities across the nation. SRFs fund a wide range of water infrastructure based on each states' needs and priorities, including drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, water reuse, stormwater management, decentralized treatment, green infrastructure, energy efficiency, water conservation, water source protection, alternative water supply development, climate resiliency, security, cybersecurity, environmental restoration and pollution prevention.

Capitalizing the SRFs with federal funding provides a growing, permanent and renewable source of revenue for water infrastructure for future generations.

Over the last three decades, federal funding of \$68 billion has generated a total investment of \$179 billion for more than 55,000 water infrastructure projects across America. Because of Congress' continued and increasing commitment to the SRFs, more than \$75 billion remains revolving in the subsidized loan programs – providing funding for water infrastructure that may never have been built if the program was established as a traditional grant program.

The SRFs offer near-term and long-term economic benefits.

Funding water infrastructure through the SRFs provides both immediate and lasting economic benefits. In the near-term, federal funding for water infrastructure fuels the growth of high-wage careers across the economy, creating jobs in planning, design, engineering, construction, and manufacturing. In the long-term, water infrastructure ensures a healthy environment and a safe, reliable and sustainable supply of drinking water, which are the foundation of a robust and resilient economy.

Thank you for your leadership.

On behalf of the SRF community, thank you for your leadership and commitment to funding water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment. CIFA also extends our sincere gratitude to the staff of the Committee, who have worked tirelessly to advance this important legislation. They have been great partners and exemplary public servants.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. Please contact CIFA's Executive Director, Deirdre Finn, at dfinn@cifanet.org or (850) 445-9619, with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,



Kim Colson, CIFA President
Director, Division of Water Infrastructure
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

About CIFA

CIFA is a national not-for-profit organization that represents the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), the nation's premier programs for funding water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment.

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