

June 17, 2015

Open Letter to Members of Congress

Dear Senator and Representative:

We call on you to stand firm on funding for clean and safe water infrastructure by providing \$1.45 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), \$1.186 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), and \$25 million for the Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) FY16 funding package. We also ask that you support the Senate Energy and Water Development bill that includes \$50 million in additional funds for water reuse (Title XVI) and conservation projects in the Bureau of Reclamation's FY16 budget.

Communities face a price tag of over \$1.3 trillion for infrastructure investments to ensure safe and clean water is available for public health, economic viability, and environmental protection. The CWSRF and the DWSRF are key pillars of the Federal government's commitment to help communities make available safe and clean water to all Americans. These are the only water infrastructure financing programs providing low-cost loans to any size community to help meet obligations under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Yet, both these programs are on the chopping block -- facing a 23% cut in the proposed FY16 EPA Appropriations packages of both the House and Senate.

Such drastic cuts during a time when drinking water and wastewater agencies face increased regulatory and enforcement pressures and unprecedented drought conditions in one third of the country, will exacerbate the massive water infrastructure investment challenge we face. It is critical for Congress to hold firm on water infrastructure funding and do everything possible to enlarge the funding pie.

Specifically, we call on Congress for FY2016 to:

- Level fund the Clean Water SRF at \$1.45 billion;
- Fund the Drinking Water SRF at \$1.186 billion;
- Support the Senate's addition of \$50 million for Title XVI and other drought response projects at the Bureau of Reclamation; and
- Fund the new WIFIA program at its fully authorized amount of \$25 million.

While our fiscal challenges require tough decisions, safe and clean water should not be sacrificed in the process.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please contact Patricia Sinicropi, NACWA's Legislative Director at psinicropi@nacwa.org, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of Water Companies
WateReuse
Water Environment Federation