

**Environment America * Alliance for the Great Lakes * American Rivers * Clean
Water Action * Earthjustice * Environmental Working Group * Freshwater Future
U.S. PIRG * Sierra Club * WE ACT**

October 1, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senators,

We, the undersigned environmental and public interest organizations, write in strong support of vital measures to safeguard safe drinking water within the America's Water Infrastructure Act (S. 3021).

All Americans should have access to safe drinking water. Yet far too often, our water is at risk. We now know the lead of drinking water extends far beyond Flint, Michigan, to thousands of communities across the country—even in our schools. Other chemical contaminants remain unregulated, imposing an unmonitored risk on millions of Americans.

Several provisions in Title II of America's Drinking Water Infrastructure Act can help address these threats to safe drinking water, including:

- SEC. 2023 doubles funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) over three years, eventually rising to \$1.95 billion in FY 2021. This money is urgently needed by states to repair and upgrade drinking water infrastructure, including replacement of leaky pipes and lead service lines.

- SEC. 1465 establishes a \$5 million per year grant program to help schools replace of drinking water fountains manufactured prior to 1988. Tests have now confirmed that lead contamination of schools' drinking water is widespread. Replacing lead-bearing fountains is one key step schools can take to begin to "get the lead out."
- SEC. 2021 requires water systems serving more than 3,300 people to monitor for unregulated contaminants, such as perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS). This class of toxic chemicals - now linked to a wide range of health risks - has contaminated drinking water in several smaller communities across the country. Monitoring is the least we can do to protect residents from drinking water laced with these unregulated toxic chemicals.

While our organizations might have different perspectives on the wide range of other provisions in the broad reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act, we all believe these three measures in Title II are key steps to protect our drinking water and our health.

We urge the Senate to ensure that these safe drinking water provisions in America's Drinking Water Infrastructure Act become law without delay. They are long overdue.

Sincerely,

Environment America
Alliance for the Great Lakes
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