

**Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Chairman Capito’s Statement for the  
“Information Gathering Process on Draft Legislation Entitled, *America’s Water  
Infrastructure Act of 2020* and the *Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020: Stakeholder  
Comments*”**

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Thank you, Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper for the opportunity to submit a statement on the release of draft legislative text for *America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020* (AWIA) and the *Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020*. This draft legislation represents our continued commitment to strengthening our nation’s water resources infrastructure, and to providing Americans access to dependable water and wastewater services.

The draft text of AWIA 2020 is this committee’s latest bipartisan collaboration to advance biennial *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA) legislation. As chairman of the subcommittee that oversees WRDA, I was proud to negotiate this draft legislation with Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper, as well as Subcommittee Ranking Member Cardin. It reauthorizes programs under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA critical to communities in West Virginia and across the nation. Once enacted, it will increase investments in our nation’s inland waterways infrastructure, support flood control through enhanced cooperation between the Army Corps and local communities, authorize millions of dollars for water and wastewater infrastructure in Appalachia, and help train the next generation of wastewater workers, among many other important provisions.

I was also glad to see provisions I authored included in the draft text of the *Drinking Water Infrastructure Act*; in particular, legislation I introduced along with Ranking Member Cardin, the *Assuring Quality Water Infrastructure Act*, that will authorize funding to small public water systems to undertake infrastructure asset management and prevent water leaks while protecting ratepayers. We were also able to secure inclusion of our legislation to reauthorize and strengthen a program that funds projects to increase water systems’ resiliency against natural hazards like flooding. In conjunction with other provisions such as those that provide resources to address emerging contaminants like PFAS, this draft legislation represents a significant step toward providing safer, more effective drinking water services for West Virginians and all Americans.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the staff that negotiated these bills, both at the Environment and Public Works Committee and in our personal offices. In particular, Brian, Andrew, Lizzy, Craig, Christina, John, Annie, Susan, and Mark with the Committee, and Shannon and Andrew with Senator Cardin's office. Your hard work and dedication are to be commended.

I look forward to hearing from our invited witnesses and other stakeholders as part of this process, and to introducing this legislation in the near future. Moving forward, I will work with my colleagues on this committee and in the full Senate to see them become law.