

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

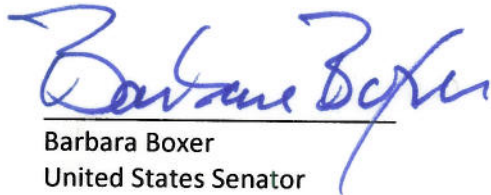
As the Senate works to reduce the deficit, it is important that we provide continued support to programs like the Clean Water (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) that create jobs, repair crumbling infrastructure and protect public health. These programs invest in short- and long-term improvements in states and communities across the nation, providing significant environmental, economic and public health benefits.

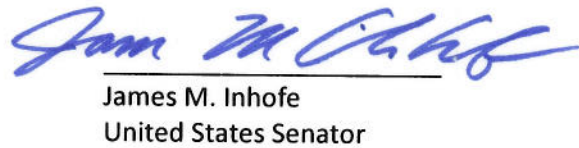
Funding for water infrastructure is greatly needed and justified. It is well documented that our nation's water infrastructure is reaching a tipping point. Each day, the condition of our water infrastructure results in significant losses and damages from broken water and sewer mains, sewage overflows, and other symptoms of water infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life cycle. The American Society of Civil Engineers' latest infrastructure report card gave the nation's water infrastructure a D-, the lowest of any category. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates \$187.9 billion in wastewater needs and \$334.8 billion in drinking water needs over the next 20 years.

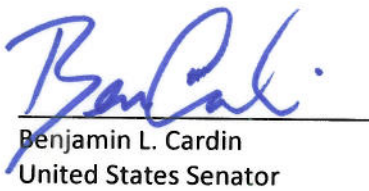
Investments in water infrastructure provide significant economic benefits to the economy and enjoy a strong return on investment. The U.S. Conference of Mayors notes that each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. The National Association of Utility Contractors estimates that one billion dollars invested in water infrastructure can create over 26,000 jobs. In addition, the Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the local water and sewer industry creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries. As you can see, this is a highly leveraged Federal investment that results in significant job and economic benefits for every dollar spent.

It is critical that the federal government remains a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs. Therefore, we urge your continued support for investments in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

  
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator

  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

  
Michael Crapo  
United States Senator

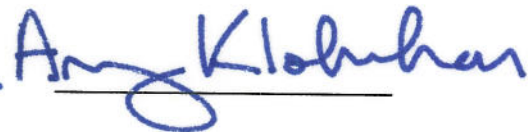
  
Rob Portman

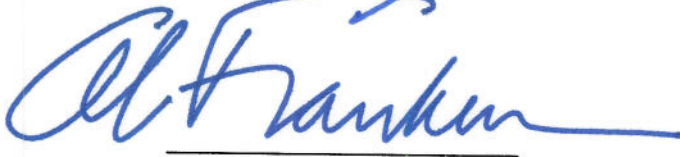
  
John Cornyn

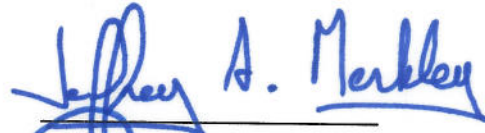
  
Mary Landrau


  
Debbie Stabenow

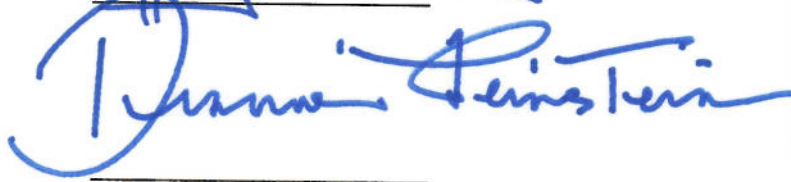
  
Jim Johnson

  
Amy Klobuchar

  
Al Franken

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley

  
Herb Kohl

  
Dianne Feinstein

John Boozman

Frank R. Lautenberg

Chuck Schumer

Barbara Mikulski

Robert Menendez

Janet M. Morgan

Jon Tester

Mark Warner

Tom Harkin

Jon Tester

Shirley H. M. Harkin

Mark Udall

Ron Wyden

Dir. Durbin

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

W. F. Blunt

Carl Levin

John F. Kerry



Mark Begich Chris Coons

Dominic Monaghan

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