



June 6, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chair
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jack Reed, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
United States Senate

Dear Senators:

We are writing to thank you for your historic support of the State Revolving Funds (SRFs). This funding is critical to help meet the demand for water infrastructure funding in all communities.

As the Subcommittee considers appropriations levels for competing water infrastructure programs, including the recently authorized Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), we urge you to direct appropriations to water infrastructure programs that prioritize funding based on the following three meritorious policy principles that are contained in the SRFs and not in WIFIA:

- Communities most in need economically (income and rates),
- Communities experiencing the greatest compliance burden to protect public health and the environment, and
- Respecting state-administered programs and state priorities for public health.

Due to federal budget realities and the enormity of the national water and wastewater infrastructure need, it is not possible for Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations to meet the current documented water infrastructure needs. We are concerned that appropriation of funds to the new WIFIA will result in the unintended consequence of diverting limited federal resources from the SRFs.

The SRFs do work for large communities. In fact, the majority of SRF funding is allocated to large communities. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 72 percent of clean water SRF funding is awarded to large communities¹ and 62 percent of drinking water SRF funding is awarded to large communities².

We urge the Subcommittee to fund the SRFs, and direct the Subcommittee's attention to the levels presented recently in testimony before the Subcommittee by ECOS and ASDWA. The undersigned groups continue to believe that limited funding should first be directed to the SRFs. This letter is consistent with ECOS resolution (08-1, April 2, 2104) in support of funding the SRFs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Environmental Council of the States

(Contact: Alexandra Dunn, adunn@ecos.org)

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

(Contact: Jim Taft, jtaft@asdwa.org)

Food & Water Watch

(Contact: Elizabeth Schuster, eschuster@fwwatch.org)

Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities

(Contact: Rick Farrell, rfarrell@madisonassoc.com)

National Rural Water Association

(Contact: Mike Keegan, keegan@ruralwater.org)

¹ http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwsrf/upload/2009_CWSRF_AR.pdf

² <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/dwsrf/nims1/dwcszeus.pdf>