

# Infrastructure in Recovery Legislation

### WATER / WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS UNTIL 2040

**\$271 billion** will be needed to maintain and replace wastewater and stormwater treatment systems.





\$473 billion will be needed to improve America's drinking water infrastructure.

(Environmental Protection Agency estimates)

#### UNDERFUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE



**4%** of all spending on **wastewater utility infrastructure** over the past several years.

### **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Highway Trust Fund needs \$94 billion over the next 5 years to avoid a shortfall.



# Issue background:

America's underground water and wastewater infrastructure ensures that Americans have access to clean drinking water, provides businesses with the resources they need to keep our economy moving, and protects our nation's waterways, beaches, and a range of recreational opportunities.

Investments in American water and wastewater infrastructure will bring environmental and public health benefits, including preventing harmful pollution from entering waterways, protecting against waterborne disease, and preserving access to natural resources enjoyed during recreational activities.

In addition to health benefits, an estimated 27,000 jobs can come with each \$1 billion investment in water and wastewater infrastructure. These opportunities are spread across the economy with more than one-half of the jobs in industries other than water system construction.

## What is NUCA's position?

Well-functioning infrastructure is indispensable to the health of our country. As water and wastewater systems continue to age and the costs of compliance with environmental requirements mount, communities face increasing difficulties in paying for needed infrastructure improvements. Given the magnitude of the national need, NUCA urges lawmakers to heavily increase our nation's investment in water and wastewater infrastructure by reauthorizing the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF programs at much higher levels.

In addition to traditional public funding, Congress should consider measures that would open the door for more private sector investment through innovative financing, such as lifting the cap on private activity bonds (PABs) for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Removing the PAB state volume cap increases private investment and capital investment, and enables more public-private partnerships. decreasing the risk placed on local governments.

With proper funding, Congress has the change to put Americans back to work on critical infrastructure projects that not only create tens of thousands of jobs but also improve public health and safety, enhance environmental protections, and raise the quality of life for the average American. NUCA looks forward to working with Congress over the coming months to further our nation's commitment to clean water and economic growth.

Surface transportation infrastructure continues to face significant needs as well, and innovative ideas are needed as the transportation sector is ever changing. As a member of the Transportation Construction Coalition, NUCA also supports strong investment in America's surface transportation infrastructure. An infusion of federal funding should be complemented with a bipartisan, robust reauthorization of the federal surface transportation programs in a way that ensures the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

# What can Congress do to help?

There are several pending bills that can provide a portion of the resources needed:

#### **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION:**

- Senate Legislation: America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (S. 2302). \$287 billion between FY 2021 - FY 2025. Supported by NUCA.
- House version (H.R. 2, "Moving Forward Act). This bill passed the House in July 2020. Funding levels in seven sections supported by NUCA.
  - o H.R. 2 includes House Democrats "INVEST in America Act", a \$476 billion highway bill supported by NUCA in committee.

### WATER / WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE **LEGISLATION:**

- State Revolving Fund (SRF) Reauthorization: (H.R. 1497) Included \$14 billion for Clean Water SRF. Supported by NUCA.
- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): Reauthorized as part of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act (DWIA)(S. 3590). This bill includes \$300 million in grants to assist in the remediation of drinking water contamination. Supported by NUCA.
- America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) (S.3591): This bill provides \$7.5 billion over 3 years for the Clean

Water SRF, and reauthorizes the Water Infrastructure Flexibility and Innovation Act (WIFIA). This bill also reauthorizes WRDA and includes \$17 billion in new funding. Supported by NUCA.

- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) (H.R. 7575): Reauthorizes WRDA and an estimated \$8.6 billion in funding for 34 new projects. Supported by NUCA.
- Sections of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2): This legislation also lifts the cap on private activity bonds for water/wastewater projects. This large bill also includes:
  - o \$40 billion for the Clean Water SRF
  - \$11 billion for Drinking Water SRF
  - o \$80 billion for broadband infrastructure

These funding levels in H.R. 2 were strongly supported by NUCA.

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