

August 2, 2021

Dear Senator _____:

I am a member of the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), which represents construction contractors, manufacturers, and distributors who build and maintain a wide range of underground facilities and transportation infrastructure. NUCA member companies provide the manpower and equipment needed to build, repair, and maintain our nation's water and wastewater, gas distribution, broadband, and electric infrastructure, as well as carry out critical work in the nation's surface transportation system. As an industry professional, I know that major infrastructure legislation will be a critical part of America's national economic recovery.

Every state suffers from obsolete or inadequate infrastructure. Overall, our nation has about more than a half-trillion dollars in outstanding project needs just for water and wastewater. As water infrastructure systems continue to age, are tested by extreme weather events, and face mounting costs of complying with environmental and health regulations, communities face increasing difficulties in paying for needed infrastructure improvements. Alarming events over the last several years in multiple U.S. states such as Michigan, Mississippi, and Texas underscore the vulnerability of our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure and the dire need for additional investment.

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Act of 2021 (DWWIA, S. 914) provides over \$35 billion over five years to meet these needs, by reauthorizing the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. This bipartisan bill passed by an overwhelming 89-2 margin, demonstrating a clear level of support for high levels of SRF funding.

NUCA members see first-hand everyday our neglected community infrastructure - we know better than anyone how dire the need is for this level of investment. However, given the magnitude of the national investment required to meet the EPA estimate, I urge you to think bigger. When negotiating a bipartisan infrastructure bill, I ask that you include DWWIA at its original level, as well as provide additional funding for important public health issues like lead pipe removal and replacement. Congress must not water down the funding in one program to pay for the other - considering the magnitude of the national need, that is moving in the wrong direction. And Congress should also examine other funding mechanisms to close the funding gap, including lifting the cap on Exempt Facility Bonds/Private Activity Bonds for water and wastewater projects.

I and my fellow NUCA members fully agree with the recent statements made by Sen. Tom Carper and other members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee objecting to proposals which would not fully fund DWWIA as it currently stands in the bipartisan negotiations. I strongly urge you to work with your colleagues to pass legislation containing at a

minimum the full levels of SRF funding approved in DWWIA, while also providing separate and additional dedicated funding for critical public health issues like lead pipe replacement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Member of the National Utility Contractors Association