



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

June 1, 2021

JAMES T. CALLAHAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
271 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

JAMES M. SWEENEY
GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Van Drew
2447 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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THOMAS A. CALLAHAN

GENERAL COUNSEL

MATTHEW G. MCGUIRE

Re: Strong Support for the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021

Dear Representatives DeFazio, Napolitano, Fitzpatrick, and Van Drew:

The International Union of Operating Engineers appreciates the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's continued commitment to bipartisan water-infrastructure legislation, and we are pleased to support H.R. 1915, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021. We encourage the committee to advance this legislation to the floor of the House of Representatives.

The International Union of Operating Engineers represents over 400,000 workers throughout North America and is one of the largest construction unions in the United States. Each day, thousands of Operating Engineers build and maintain this nation's treatment facilities and pipeline networks that carry and clean stormwater and wastewater.

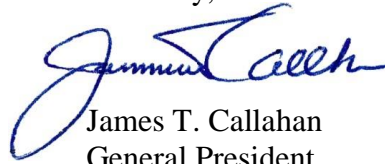
Across the country, the need to upgrade and repair aging wastewater infrastructure is well documented. The American Society of Civil Engineer's 2021 Infrastructure Report Card gave our nation's wastewater infrastructure a grade of "D+". Billions of gallons of *raw sewage* enter the nation's waterways through combined sewer overflows. Years of inadequate funding to address the nation's water infrastructure needs have failed millions of American families who rely on access to clean, affordable water.

The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act contains the right spending focus – the nation's most robust and successful program in wastewater infrastructure, the State Revolving Fund program. The State Revolving Funds have successfully delivered critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure funding to communities of all sizes for a generation. These programs are instrumental in providing low-cost financing for environmental infrastructure. Enactment of your bill, which includes new, higher authorization levels, is an essential step to guide the nation's investment in water infrastructure and seize the historic opportunity to "build back better."

The International Union of Operating Engineers respectfully requests that you advance this critical wastewater legislation. We look forward to working with you and other leaders to make affirmative investments in these programs as the 117th Congress progresses.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on these critical infrastructure matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James T. Callahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being particularly prominent and stylized.

James T. Callahan
General President