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May 25, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
Chairwoman
Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Endorsement of H.R. 1915, the Water Quality Protect and Job Creation Act of 2021

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Chairwoman Napolitano,

The National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) writes in support of H.R. 1915, the Water Quality Protect and Job Creation Act of 2021. This important legislation will provide much needed funding and financing resources to communities to make necessary investments in underground water infrastructure. NASSCO members are the companies that work with communities and utilities to assess and rehabilitate wastewater and stormwater collections and conveyance infrastructure. Many of the provisions included H.R. 1915 align with NASSCO's Policy Recommendations to Congress¹.

In particular, NASSCO strongly support the following provisions included in the most recent version of H.R. 1915:

- Section 11 & 14 -- Reauthorization and increased subsidization funding of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF);
- Section 6 -- Reauthorization and robust funding of sewer overflow and stormwater reuse municipal grants;
- Section 4 -- Establishment of pilot project funding assistance for increased resilience of treatment works from extreme weather events; and
- Section 3 -- Reauthorization and increased funding for Section 106(a), EPA Water Pollution Control grants to states.

Established in 1976, NASSCO is the professional and industry trade association for the municipal agencies, contractors, companies, and individuals who inspect, maintain, rehabilitate, install, and manufacture products and equipment for underground wastewater, drinking water and stormwater infrastructure. Among NASSCO's many resources for water professionals, the Association has developed industry-

¹ <https://www.nassco.org/government-relations#/1>



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standard training programs specifically designed to educate municipalities and contractors on the proper identification and uniform coding of sewer and stormwater infrastructure conditions. The Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP®) helps municipalities develop asset management programs, identifying the most critical areas for water infrastructure maintenance or rehabilitation. This is an important, proactive step in maintaining and investing in water infrastructure, minimizing failures to the collection and conveyance systems. Maintaining and rehabilitating underground water infrastructure is critical to protecting public health, protecting the environment, and promoting economic growth in communities.

NASSCO's members rely heavily upon robust federal, state, and local investments in underground water infrastructure. The challenges most communities have around balancing regulatory compliance with project funding resources have resulted in much of our nation's underground water infrastructure to be in service well past its design life, which increases pipe failure rates and results in emergency repairs that are extremely costly, disruptive to residents and businesses, and harmful to the environment. Fixing emergency pipe failures is significantly more expensive versus planned maintenance through adherence to an established and well-funded asset management plan which allows for prioritization of those sections of pipe requiring the highest level of attention.

As Congress further considers this legislation, NASSCO welcomes the opportunity to provide any additional support needed to enact H.R. 1915 into law. Thank you for leading the drafting and passage of this important bipartisan legislation in Congress.

Sincerely,

Sheila Joy
NASSCO Executive Director

CC: Members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

