

February 18, 2021

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

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) represents construction contractors, manufacturers, and distributors who build and maintain a wide range of our nation's infrastructure. Member companies provide the manpower and equipment needed to build, repair, and maintain the infrastructure needed for water and wastewater, gas distribution, broadband, electric as well as the nation's surface transportation system.

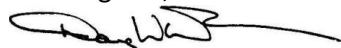
Our nation's underground water and sewer infrastructure ensures that Americans have access to clean drinking water and safe sanitary wastewater systems, provides businesses with the resources they need to keep our economy moving, and protects our nation's waterways, beaches, and a range of recreational opportunities. Taken together, well-functioning infrastructure is indispensable to the health of our country. However, as wastewater systems continue to age and the costs of compliance with environmental requirements mount, communities face increasing difficulties in paying for needed infrastructure improvements. At the same time, federal spending accounted for just four percent of all spending on wastewater utility infrastructure in recent years. Given that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most recent assessment found that \$271 billion will be needed to maintain and replace wastewater and stormwater treatment systems over the next twenty years, Congress must act.

To that end, NUCA strongly supports the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021, and applauds the proposed \$40 billion/5 year reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CW SRF). NUCA also appreciates the focused nature of the draft on CW SRF authorization, and we feel that a clean bill is a good approach to ensure strong industry support.

In addition to traditional public funding, NUCA continues to support innovative solutions to the funding shortfall facing America's clean water infrastructure. Congress should consider measures that would open the door for more private sector investment through innovative financing such as lifting the cap on exempt facility bonds (private activity bonds) for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Again, we thank you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation at a time when our nation's water infrastructure is more in need of overhaul than ever. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,



Doug Carlson
Chief Executive Officer