

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) supports the introduction of the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021. By increasing investment in the nation's wastewater, stormwater, and water reuse infrastructure, this legislation will help communities address local water quality needs.

As you may know, the Portland Cement Association (PCA) is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization serving America's cement manufacturers. PCA's members represent 93 percent of the U.S. cement production capacity and have facilities in all 50 states. Our members manufacture portland cement, the primary ingredient in concrete, an essential construction material and a basic component of our nation's water infrastructure. Cement and concrete product manufacturing, directly and indirectly, employs approximately 600,000 people across the United States, and our collective industries contribute over \$100 billion to our economy.

As our nation's wastewater infrastructure ages and the cost of compliance with environmental requirements continues to increase, communities are faced with growing difficulties in paying for critical improvements. The Environmental Protection Agency's 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey estimates \$271 billion is needed to address the capital needs in wastewater and stormwater treatment systems over the next twenty years. Given that this study was completed almost ten years ago, the needs are very likely even greater. The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act takes important steps to helping communities meet the backlog in investment.

The Portland Cement Association supports the reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). Since its inception in 1987, the Clean Water SRF has provided low-interest loans to communities to finance critical local wastewater infrastructure needs. This program has provided critical financing to help communities make needed water infrastructure improvements. Reauthorizing this program for five years ensures communities continue to have access to this critical financing tool.

The cement industry is also supportive of the legislation's provisions to assist communities in addressing the impacts of sewer overflows and stormwater flows. The nation's water infrastructure investment that will be made possible by this legislation has a broad range of positive benefits. Specifically, these investments will lead to better public health outcomes and protect Americans' quality of life.

Additionally, investment in water infrastructure also generates economic activity and supports high-paying jobs across the country.

PCA looks forward to continuing to work with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to advance this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sean O'Neill".

Sean O'Neill
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs