

**Steve Moyer** Vice President of Government Affairs

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Committee Chairman The Honorable Grace Napolitano, Subcommittee Chair U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Washington, DC 20515

Re: Trout Unlimited supports the proposed substitute amendment for HR 1915

Dear Committee Chair DeFazio and Subcommittee Chair Napolitano:

Trout Unlimited (TU), and its over 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, support the proposed substitute amendment to the *Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021*, H.R. 1915, which would authorize much-needed increases in funding to help address our nation's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure challenges.

Clean water, and healthy waterways, are critical elements of the Nation's infrastructure system. Today, as we work so hard to finally overcome the covid 19 crisis, we can see that more clearly than ever before. As individuals, we need clean water to drink. As communities, we need healthy waterways to sustain our fisheries, our recreation, and our economies.

We are especially pleased by HR 1915's substantial increase to the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). It is the main source of financing for wastewater municipalities across the Nation. No other program has done as much as this one has to achieve substantial water quality improvement in waters across the Nation. Recent improvements in the Chesapeake Bay, for example, have been driven in large part by upgrades to municipal treatment facilities throughout the Basin.

In many basins across the Nation, TU's headwater restoration work goes hand in glove with use of SRF funds to improve municipal treatment facilities in the towns and cities in the valleys below. It is a critical element for water quality improvement, and there are many needs unmet nationwide. We are especially pleased that the bill also includes a Green Project Reserve Program – codification of the program to allow states to utilize a minimum of 15 percent of their annual Clean Water SRF capitalization grants to invest in projects that increase energy-and water-efficiency, or that utilize natural or nature-based approaches to addressing local water quality challenges.

We deeply appreciate all of your efforts to advance this much needed bill.

Sincerely,

Steven N. May