

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

As the Subcommittee develops spending priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, we strongly urge you to support full and robust funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF.) We appreciate your continued support for these vital initiatives and urge you to provide no less than the FY 2018 funding level. It is critically important to provide the most robust possible federal investment in our nation's safe and clean water infrastructure, particularly as each dollar invested helps to create jobs while protecting public health and environmental quality in our states.


When there is insufficient funding to support the SRFs, water quality suffers. The situation in Flint, Michigan serves as one example of why both the CWSRF and DWSRF are so important. In Flint, at least 8,000 children were exposed to levels of lead high enough to cause permanent damage to the brain and nervous system, as well as anemia, hypertension, renal impairment, reproductive damage, and immunotoxicity. However, Flint is not alone. There are nearly 2,000 water systems—at least one in every state in the country—that have elevated levels of lead in their drinking water as well. The Virginia Tech team that measured the lead in the Flint water supply has shown that even minor changes in water chemistry in systems with lead pipe can cause the extreme levels that constitute a public health crisis. It is vital that every American have access to clean and safe drinking water and they should have confidence in the government's ability to provide this necessary resource.

Economic losses due to aging infrastructure are also increasing. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the nation's drinking water a "D" and wastewater infrastructure a "D+" in its 2017 infrastructure report card. Additionally, there are 250,000 and 300,000 water main breaks every year in the U.S. according to recent estimates. AWWA estimates the cost to replace our nation's crumbling drinking water infrastructure will be more than \$1 trillion over the next 25 years. Maintaining a state of good repair of our nation's drinking water infrastructure is critical to protecting public health by ensuring reliable delivery of safe drinking water to millions of Americans. Every day, communities face significant losses and damage from broken water and sewer mains, sewage overflows, and other problems due to infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life cycle.


SRFs help address these conditions by investing in short- and long-term improvements to water and wastewater infrastructure in states and communities across the nation.

Given the importance of water and wastewater infrastructure to the health and well-being of the American people as well as to the national economy, it is critical that the federal government continue to be a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs. We therefore urge your continued robust investment in the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.


Sincerely,




Jack Reed
U.S. Senator




Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator



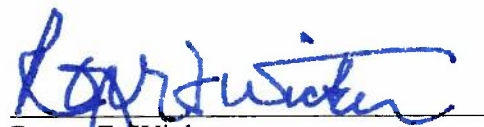
Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator




Susan M. Collins
U.S. Senator



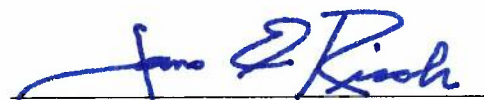
Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator




Roger F. Wicker
U.S. Senator



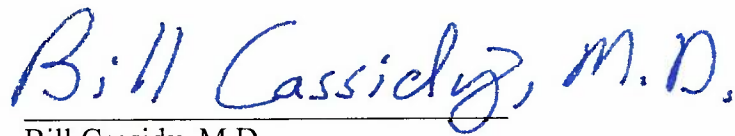
Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator




James E. Risch
U.S. Senator




Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator



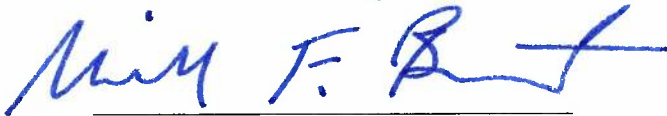
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator

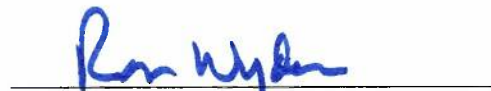

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator



Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senator



Joe Manchin III
U.S. Senator


James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator

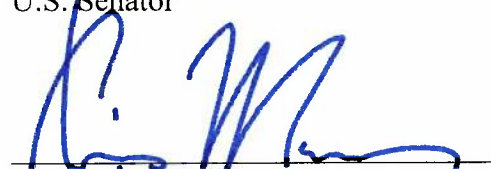

Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

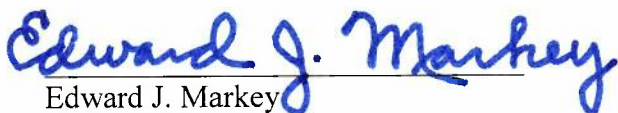

Ron Wyden
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Tommy Baldwin
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Edward J. Markey
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Bill Nelson
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Mark R. Warner
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Jeffrey A. Merkley
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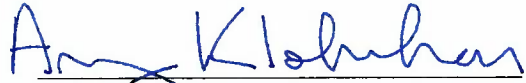
Richard Blumenthal
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Debbie Stabenow
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Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator



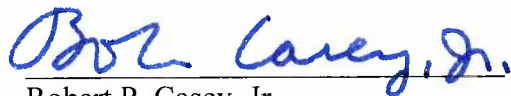
Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator




Tina Smith
U.S. Senator



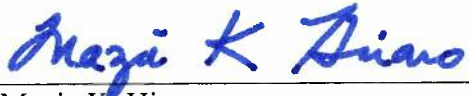
Catherine Cortez Masto
U.S. Senator



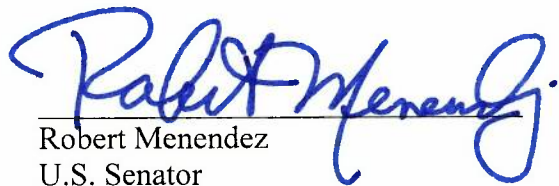
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senator



Tim Kaine
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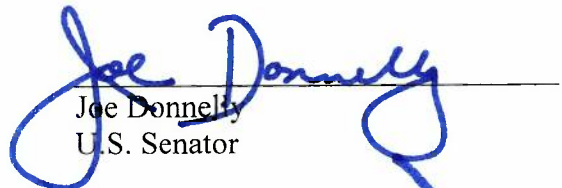
Mazie K. Hirono
U.S. Senator



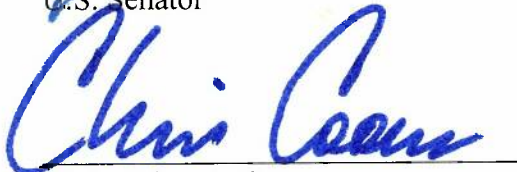
Robert Menendez
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Jon Tester
U.S. Senator



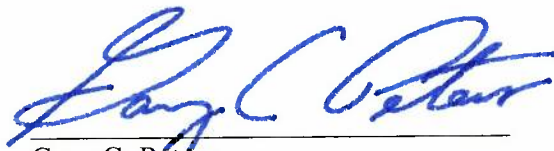
Joe Donnelly
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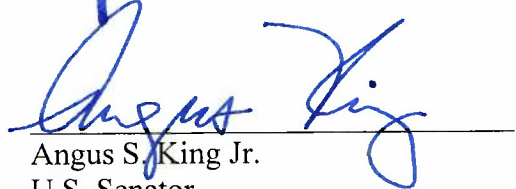
Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



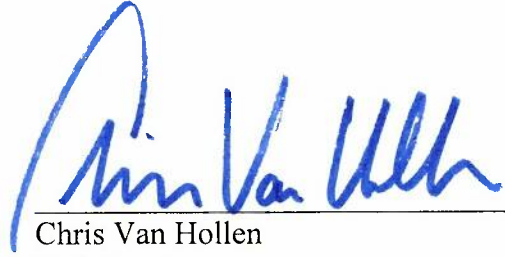
Gary C. Peters
U.S. Senator



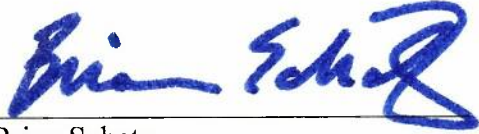
Angus S. King Jr.
U.S. Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



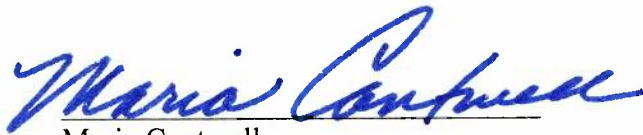
Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator



Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator



Kamala D. Harris
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Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator



Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senator



Cory A. Booker
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