

19 January 2015

Honorable John DeFrancisco
333 E. Washington Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

RE: NY Settlement Monies – Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Dear Senator DeFrancisco,

In a November 2014 report published by the New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Official regarding New York's settlement monies from financial institutions, it is suggested that "preference should be given to those entities that provide the most essential of services, and those that have been most neglected." ***The undersigned parties strongly urge you to help municipalities across the state upgrade their water and sewer infrastructure.***

In general, we all take turning on the tap and flushing the toilet for granted. This "out of sight," out of mind infrastructure often gets overlooked and it takes a crisis to bring it to the attention of everyone. Water and Wastewater infrastructure around the nation is aging and in desperate need of repairs. Due to the aging infrastructure, Cities across the nation are experiencing more water main breaks. Recently, the City of Syracuse had six (6) water main breaks in one day that cost ~\$350,000 in repairs. In New York City a water main break that happened on 1/17/14 interrupted service on the subway, flooded basements and created havoc during the morning commute – Not to mention the large sinkholes that can form when a water main breaks, like the one in Brooklyn in 2012, that created a 70' drop. On the wastewater side of the equation of infrastructure in 1993, more than 100 deaths happened as a result of drinking water contaminated with cryptosporidium.

To explain how much is needed here in New York State, a report by the New York State Comptroller estimates water and sewer needs at \$10.7 billion and \$20.2 billion respectively. The organizations that have signed onto this letter ***representing nearly 8,000 members***, speak with ***one voice***, and all agree that protection of public health is most important.

In 2015, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of New York's Pure Waters Program. This program helped pave the way for the national Clean Water Act. ***We the undersigned respectfully request that these one-time surplus monies be used for much needed upgrades to the water and sewer infrastructure.***

Sincerely,



Steve Fangmann, President
New York Water Environment Association



Peter A. Baynes, Executive Director
New York State Conference of Mayors



Kevin Castro, Chair
NY Section American Water Works Association



Dorothy Goosby, President
NYS Association of Towns



Steve Vanderbrook, President
American Public Works Association



Matt Thorp, President
New York Rural Water Association