



The New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

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August 15, 2013

Sent to all NYS Congressional Delegates

Dear Representative «Last_Name»,

On behalf of the 2,500 members of the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) representing the water and wastewater Utilities across the state that work daily to protect and enhance New York's water resources we urge you to oppose the drastic cuts made to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs in the House proposed FY 2014 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill. We support the funding levels agreed to in the FY 2013 omnibus spending bill of \$1.452 billion and \$909 million, respectively.

Communities across the country face enormous challenges in providing their residents with safe and clean water and while we understand the nation faces difficult fiscal decisions, disinvesting in our nation's public health infrastructure should not be the solution. The water and wastewater infrastructure needs of this country are well known: our drinking water and wastewater utilities face upwards of \$1 trillion or more to fund their systems over the next twenty years according to surveys released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Water Works Association and others. Communities rely on the State Revolving Fund program to obtain low-cost financing to meet these needs - ratepayers cannot shoulder this burden alone.

We cannot allow the job of maintaining our critical water and wastewater infrastructure to become a budget casualty. ***It must be seen as an investment.*** As you work to negotiate a final F/Y 2014 EPA budget, I urge you to ensure that the SRF programs remain a reliable partner in meeting the nation's water and wastewater needs by restoring the proposed cuts.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Mark Koester, President, NYWEA