



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource

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March 1, 2013

The Honorable Tim Bishop
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Bipartisan “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act”

Dear Congressmen Bishop,

On behalf of the more than 28,500 members of the American Public Works Association, I am writing to thank you for your continued and steadfast leadership in federal investment in the nation’s clean water infrastructure. The “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2013” wisely lays out several funding methods to tackle the current funding crisis and is a good vehicle to begin a bipartisan conversation about reestablishing a strong federal role in funding the nation’s critical water infrastructure. The public works professionals of APWA support your efforts and stand ready to help you and your colleagues craft a workable solution to this problem.

As you are fully aware, America’s infrastructure is crumbling and in need of increased investment. According to the EPA’s most recent clean water and drinking water needs assessment surveys, local communities will need \$300 billion in wastewater and \$335 billion in drinking water infrastructure improvements for capital expenditures over the next 20 years.

Additionally, the Water Infrastructure Network estimates that every \$1 billion invested in waster infrastructure capital creates nearly 28,000 jobs. Local jurisdictions struggle to fund these infrastructure capital projects. The state of the nation’s water resources infrastructure is dire. In fact, a recent report released by Green for All found that total public investment in water infrastructure as a share of the economy is estimated to have fallen by over one third since peak investment levels in 1975. Additionally, you are aware that estimates place the nation’s water investment needs between \$50 billion and almost \$60 billion per year over the next 20 years. According to the Water Infrastructure Network, a federal investment of \$20 billion in identified water infrastructure projects this fall could create of 400,000 jobs over the next year.

PRESIDENT
Elizabeth Treadway, PWF
Johnson City, TN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peter B. King

Finally, it is widely understood that investment in clean water infrastructure results in multiple benefits. It creates jobs, reduces pollution, improves public health and fosters economic growth. Investment in infrastructure “creates over 16% more jobs for dollar for dollar than a payroll tax holiday, nearly 40% more jobs than an across-the-board-tax-cut, and over five times as many jobs as temporary business tax cuts.” (Green for All, Water Works: Rebuilding Infrastructure, Creating Jobs, Greening the Environment, p. 23 (Green for All, 2011) www.greenforall.org). And while we must acknowledge the current reality of large deficits and tight budgets, the strategies laid out in the “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act” offer a sound, thoughtful and vital step to creating jobs, reducing pollution and protecting public health, and spurring economic growth.

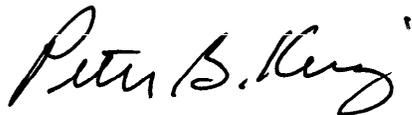
Once again thank you for your leadership and steadfast support for investment in clean water infrastructure. We applaud you for your continued leadership and we encourage you to work with the Chairman Gibbs and others to solve the funding crisis in a bipartisan fashion. As you are well aware, since the passage of the Clean Water Act water infrastructure funding has enjoyed strong bipartisan support. However, in recent years, this bipartisan approach to addressing the nation’s water infrastructure funding needs has waned and local governments have been forced to shoulder more and more of the burden of paying for costly infrastructure repairs and upgrades at time when local economies are still struggling to recover from the economic downturn of the past few years. Decades of chronic underinvestment in our nation’s water infrastructure is jeopardizing public safety, our economic competitiveness, and environmental health.

We support the “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act” because it focuses on sound clean water infrastructure investment as a critical component of a path to creating jobs, protecting the environment and public health, and for strengthening the nation’s faltering economy. We stand ready to help you move this vital legislation forward.

APWA is an organization dedicated to providing public works infrastructure and services to millions of people in rural and urban communities, both small and large. Working in the public interest, APWA’s more than 28,500 members design, build, operate and maintain transportation, water supply and wastewater treatment systems, storm water utilities, waste and refuse disposal systems, public buildings and grounds, and other structures and facilities essential to the economy and the American way of life.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Julia Anastasio, janastasio@apwa.net or 202-218-6750, Director of Sustainability, in our Washington, DC office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter B. King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter B. King
Executive Director