

Ranking Member Tim Bishop
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
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Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Ranking Member Bishop:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is pleased to endorse the **Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act** to be introduced in the House today. The legislation would provide significant new federal investments in wastewater infrastructure through the authorization of \$13.8 billion for the Clean Water Act State Revolving loan Fund (SRF) through 2018. To ensure a longer term solution to the nation's infrastructure problem, the legislation also would create a federal trust fund to secure a dedicated source of revenue for essential public health infrastructure nationwide. Both approaches are critical to preserving public safety and welfare from polluted water in the United States.

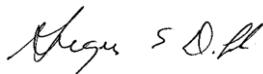
Particularly in the country's older cities, much of the drinking-water infrastructure is old and in need of replacement. Our *2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure* gave the nation's wastewater and drinking-water systems identical grades of D-, marking them as systems in near total failure. More recently, ASCE released a report entitled, *Failure to Act: the Economic Impact of Current Investment Trends in Water and Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure*, which revealed the impact of the deteriorating condition of the nation's wastewater and drinking-water infrastructure on America's economic performance. In other words, how does that D- for water treatment and transmission affect America's economic future?

The report concluded that by 2020 the gap between needs and anticipated funding for wastewater and drinking-water infrastructure will be \$84 billion. That \$84 billion funding gap may lead to \$147 billion in increased costs for businesses and a further \$59 billion for households. In the worst case, the U.S. will lose almost 700,000 jobs by 2020. By 2020, the average annual effect on the U.S. economy is expected to be \$416 billion in lost GDP. Putting the problem in terms we can all understand, the average family household budget will increase about \$900 annually to cover the cost of increased water rates and lost income. For these reasons, the investments provided by the Water Quality Protection and Jobs Creation Act are vital at this time.

The impact of not making the investment to repair our nation's vital drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs to be addressed while Congress addresses the economy. Therefore, the federal government should be working with state and local governments to make these investments now, or risk water infrastructure failures coming at the expense of public health and economic well-being in the future.

If ASCE can be of assistance on this important and timely legislation, please do not hesitate to contact Caroline Sevier of our Washington office at 202-789-7852 or at csevier@asce.org.

Sincerely yours,



Gregory DiLoreto, P.E., P.L.S., D.WRE, F.ASCE
President