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AGC of America
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
Quality People. Quality Projects.



February 20, 2013

The Honorable Tim Bishop
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bishop:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) I am writing to express support for the introduction of the "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2013."

AGC is among the oldest and largest national trade associations for the construction industry. AGC represents more than 30,000 firms throughout the United States, including 7,500 of America's leading contractors, 12,500 specialty contractors and more than 13,000 suppliers and service providers to the construction industry. With the economic recovery slowly continuing, construction remains in the doldrums, especially public construction markets like water and wastewater. The unemployment rate in the construction industry is over 16 percent, more than double the national average.

AGC is very supportive of the multiyear reauthorization of the highly successful, but chronically underfunded, State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs. With an estimated need between \$400 and \$600 billion over the next 20 years for safe drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, Congress should reauthorize and fully fund the Clean Water SRF to give communities the ability to leverage federal dollars and plan capital improvements. This in turn provides consistency and predictability in the water infrastructure construction markets and ensures public health, safety and environmental quality. With Congress continuing to cut annual appropriations for these essential programs, and further water quality regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency on the horizon, it is more important than ever for the federal government to demonstrate its commitment to these programs that provide critical assistance to local governments.

AGC also believes that the current annual appropriations-based model for federal funding of water infrastructure is unsustainable long-term. We support the creation of a long-term, sustainable, off-budget source of funding, such as a trust fund, to finance construction and maintenance of water infrastructure. We are hopeful that a stable revenue stream can be found through user fees to supplement federal funds and help keep long-term funding commitments for critical projects.

In conclusion, AGC supports the elements of your legislation and hopes to see it passed with the same bipartisan support that water infrastructure investment has enjoyed in the past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Shoaf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent.

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director
Government Affairs