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October 11, 2011

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
306 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steven C. LaTourette  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2371 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Petri  
Chair, Aviation Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Bishop, Ranking Member Rahall, Representative LaTourette and Chairman Petri:

On behalf of the 19,000 cities and towns represented by the National League of Cities (NLC), I am writing to express our support for the purposes of the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011, which include authorizing appropriations for state water pollution control revolving funds and establishing a new sewer overflow control grant for municipalities.

NLC is a strong supporter of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). The Clean Water SRF, along with the Drinking Water SRF, are integral tools used by our communities for providing clean, drinkable, and swimmable water to the American people. Additionally, a new grant program for municipalities to carry out projects to control municipal combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows will aid in pollution control and help protect our nation’s water resources.

As you know, despite the fact that local governments fund 95 to 98 percent of all water and wastewater infrastructure investment, the needs in our communities continue to grow according to EPA surveys. The EPA’s most recent Clean Watersheds Needs Survey indicates that the 20 year investment needed to upgrade our nation’s total wastewater and stormwater management infrastructure to meet the water quality goals set in the Clean Water Act to be \$298.1 billion. And, according to our studies, these investment levels are actually an underestimate given the advancing age of our infrastructure, the burden of unfunded federal regulatory mandates, and factors not yet known as a result of our changing climate.



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Accordingly, local governments need a reliable, long-term source of substantial capital for municipal water infrastructure systems to help close the gap between current expenditures and anticipated needs to enhance and maintain critical water infrastructure in our communities.

In closing, you should know that local governments remain committed to meeting the growing water infrastructure needs in our communities. We hope the federal government remains committed to being a full partner in this important endeavor. Because the nation's cities are working to improve aging infrastructure, meet federal regulatory requirements, create and retain jobs, and foster a climate of economic growth in our communities, a federal investment in our nation's infrastructure is essential. We look forward to working with you on a long-term solution to our nation's water infrastructure needs.

Very truly yours,



Donald J. Borut  
Executive Director

