



March 22, 2019

Representative Napolitano  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee;  
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Representative Westerman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee;  
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee  
2019 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano and Ranking Member Westerman,

The Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) and the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) greatly appreciate your efforts to re-authorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). As you are aware, it has been decades since this vitally important program was last authorized. ACWA, the national voice of state, interstate, and territorial officials responsible for the implementation of programs that protect surface waters across the nation and ECOS, a nonpartisan group representing the heads of state environmental agencies, support your efforts and calls for increased authorization of appropriations to directly assist with preventing, reducing, and eliminating pollution to the nation's waters.

ECOS and ACWA members rely on the Clean Water SRF to build, maintain, and upgrade water infrastructure, fund non-point source pollution control projects, protect estuaries, hire state level staff to oversee and process grants, implement stormwater controls and more. The Clean Water SRF program has been incredibly successfully since its inception in 1987, providing more than \$133 billion to communities through 39,948 loans.<sup>1</sup> However, there is still a large backlog of infrastructure needs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-results>

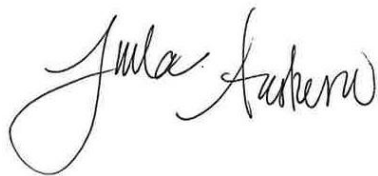
According to estimates from the American Society of Civil Engineers, there are more than \$271 billion in wastewater infrastructure needs in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

The states need an increase of the Clean Water SRF to address infrastructure needs in their communities. ECOS and ACWA appreciate and support the House Transportation Water and Environment Subcommittee's focus on this issue through H.R. 1497, which would authorize the Clean Water SRF at \$20 billion over 5 years. Increasing the Clean Water SRF authorized amount would be helpful in the continued push to address the clean water infrastructure backlog, as states increasingly bear more of the implementation burden than ever before. We emphasize that any increases in Clean Water SRF should not come at the expense of other critical funding for state water quality programs, such as State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG).

Additionally, ECOS and ACWA request that the Committee consider reducing, or even eliminating, measures that impose additional costs on infrastructure projects, add administrative reporting requirements, create disincentives for applicants pursuing funding, and can limit the effectiveness of the Clean Water SRF program. Additional requirements greatly increase the complexity of the loan application and project review and can make the funding source less attractive or competitive in the market place.

In conclusion, ECOS and ACWA appreciate the Committee's longstanding support for clean water infrastructure and reauthorizing the Clean Water SRF. The states need support and funding for the backlog and maintenance of water infrastructure projects that promote clean surface water. ECOS and ACWA are happy to work with the Committee on this issue and provide any needed state insights. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Julia Anastasio  
Executive Director & General Counsel  
ACWA



Donald Welsh  
Executive Director  
ECOS

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Drinking-Water-Final.pdf>