



**American Water Works
Association**

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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

Legislative Alert

TO: AWWA Leadership and Utilities
FROM: AWWA Government Affairs
DATE: January 15, 2009

Who:	Water Utilities
What:	Contact member(s) of the House Committee on Appropriations and ask for parity with wastewater in economic recovery legislation
When:	As soon as possible

The U.S. House Committee on Appropriations today unveiled its proposal for infrastructure spending in the upcoming economic stimulus bill. It would provide \$2 billion for drinking water infrastructure, \$6 billion for wastewater infrastructure, and \$1.5 billion for rural water projects of both types. Hearings on the package begin next week.

AWWA urges water utilities to contact members of the committee – by phone, fax and/or email - and urge them to increase the amount of funding for drinking water infrastructure to achieve parity with funding for wastewater infrastructure. **This is especially important if a member on the House Appropriations Committee is from your district.**

The names of the current members are listed below. Additional contact information can be found at: <http://appropriations.house.gov/members110th.shtml>. Here are the key talking points:

- Infrastructure funding and construction needs are equal for drinking water and wastewater; therefore the stimulus bill should treat them equally.
- Studies by EPA and the Congressional Budget Office bear this out.
- AWWA has identified at least \$10 billion in drinking water infrastructure projects that are "shovel-ready," or ready to start within 120 days. And that is a conservative figure.

Visit www.awwa.org/jobcreation for more information. Member utilities wishing to reprint AWWA's "I'm 400,000 jobs waiting to happen" ad should contact AWWA Public Affairs at

gkail@awwa.org to receive a high resolution copy.

Additional background: There have been questions raised about how to distribute the funds. Congress is looking primarily at the state revolving loan fund programs for drinking water and wastewater. The primary reason is that this will be an appropriations bill, not an authorizing bill. An authorizing bill would be needed to create a new program and that would entail a longer legislative process. (There have been exceptions to this in the past, but they are rare and have not involved spending of this magnitude.) AWWA realizes there could be challenges in getting money out quickly through the SRF programs. However, some state administrators, like in Texas, for example, have already met with stakeholders from the drinking water community to work out ways to make the SRF program work in a stimulus bill. It can be done.

House Appropriations Committee Members

Democrats

David R. Obey, Wisconsin, Chair
John P. Murtha, Pennsylvania
Norman D. Dicks, Washington
Alan B. Mollohan, West Virginia
Marcy Kaptur, Ohio
Peter J. Visclosky, Indiana
Nita M. Lowey, New York
José E. Serrano, New York
Rosa L. DeLauro, Connecticut
James P. Moran, Virginia
John W. Olver, Massachusetts
Ed Pastor, Arizona
David E. Price, North Carolina
Chet Edwards, Texas
Robert E. "Bud" Cramer, Jr., Alabama
Patrick J. Kennedy, Rhode Island
Maurice D. Hinchey, New York
Lucille Roybal-Allard, California
Sam Farr, California
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Illinois
Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Michigan
Allen Boyd, Florida
Chaka Fattah, Pennsylvania
Steven R. Rothman, New Jersey
Sanford Bishop, Georgia
Marion Berry, Arkansas
Barbara Lee, California
Tom Udall, New Mexico
Adam Schiff, California
Michael Honda, California
Betty McCollum, Minnesota
Steve Israel, New York
Tim Ryan, Ohio
C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, Maryland
Ben Chandler, Kentucky
Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Florida
Ciro Rodriguez, Texas

Republicans

Jerry Lewis, California, Ranking Member
C.W. Bill Young, Florida
Ralph Regula, Ohio
Harold Rogers, Kentucky
Frank R. Wolf, Virginia
James T. Walsh, New York
David L. Hobson, Ohio
Joe Knollenberg, Michigan
Jack Kingston, Georgia
Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, New Jersey
Todd Tiahrt, Kansas
Zach Wamp, Tennessee
Tom Latham, Iowa
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Jo Ann Emerson, Missouri
Kay Granger, Texas
John E. Peterson, Pennsylvania
Virgil H. Goode, Jr., Virginia
Ray LaHood, Illinois
Dave Weldon, Florida
Michael K. Simpson, Idaho
John Abney Culberson, Texas
Mark Steven Kirk, Illinois
Ander Crenshaw, Florida
Dennis R. Rehberg, Montana
John Carter, Texas
Rodney Alexander, Louisiana
Ken Calvert, California
Jo Bonner, Alabama