

December 12, 2008

The Honorable XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative XXXXXXXX,

The Honorable XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX  
United States Senate

Dear Senator,

As **manager/general manager/[or other title]** of a drinking water utility that serves **XX,XXXX** citizens in your **district/state**, I ask that you publicly support and then vote for an allocation of at least \$10 billion for drinking water infrastructure in the economic stimulus legislation that Congress is considering. There are at least that many drinking water projects ready to go as soon as a funding commitment is made, based on a recent survey of our utility members.

These projects would immediately employ more than 400,000 American workers on repairs and improvements to water mains, leaking pipes, water treatment plants, pumping stations, storage reservoirs, elevated tanks, security safeguards, and similar projects. Most of these projects not only protect public health and the environment, but they are very labor intensive.

It is critical that drinking water utilities of all sizes must be eligible for stimulus funds, even though some states discourage large systems from accessing their "normal" State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. There are numerous large system projects ready to go that can immediately put tens of thousands of people to work.

We also ask that you ensure equal funding for drinking water and waste water (sewerage) projects. Every study by EPA and others has shown approximate parity in needs between drinking water and wastewater utilities.

In addition to directly putting people to work, investments in drinking water infrastructure highly stimulate other economic activity. Water projects depend on American pipe, fittings, cement, aggregates, and other products. The US Conference of Mayors estimates that every job created in rebuilding our water systems creates over 3.6 jobs elsewhere, and every dollar invested in water infrastructure adds \$6.35 to the national economy. Needless to say, investments in water infrastructure also create lasting benefits by strengthening public health, safety, and our quality of life.

We look forward to helping you in any way possible as you craft this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything we can do to be of assistance. A contact at AWWA would be Tom Curtis, Deputy Executive Director for Government Affairs, at (202) 628-8303 or at [tcurtis@awwa.org](mailto:tcurtis@awwa.org).

Sincerely,