



July 2, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) strongly objects to the proposed cuts to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) in the Committee’s FY25 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies spending bill. If the DWSRF funding is set at \$883 million for next year, water systems nationwide will be deprived of the essential investments needed to provide safe and clean water to the public.

The EPA estimates that maintaining current levels of service in the nation's drinking water infrastructure will require \$625 billion in investments over the next 20 years. However, AMWA expects that drinking water systems across the country will face additional costs associated with treating PFAS to comply with EPA’s new drinking water standards, and navigating the recent designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA. Moreover, water systems will face increased expenses to prepare their infrastructure for the impacts of climate change and extreme weather. Without robust federal investment, these costs will increasingly burden local water ratepayers, who are already struggling with rising water rates.

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Toho Water

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The Committee's FY25 spending proposal would reduce DWSRF funding by approximately \$242 million compared to the enacted FY24 level. This drastic cut would adversely impact drinking water systems in every state, all of which are already contending with escalating infrastructure costs and state and federal mandates. In this context, it is simply unconscionable to reduce water infrastructure funding.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 authorized the DWSRF to receive up to \$3.25 billion in FY25. We urge the Committee to fully fund this critical program to ensure that the nation's water systems receive the necessary federal support to continue delivering high-quality, safe drinking water to communities across the country.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial issue. We look forward to working with the Committee to prioritize drinking water infrastructure as the final FY25 appropriations process proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T".

Thomas Dobbins
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee members