

March 17, 2021

BIPARTISAN CLEAN WATER FUNDING BILL INTRODUCED

In the first significant action on infrastructure by the new Congress, yesterday the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) announced they are set to introduce the *Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021*.

This bipartisan effort would authorize \$50 billion in direct infrastructure investment over the next five years. The Clean Water Construction Coalition is listed as an early supporter of this bill as it meets our funding level objectives for the Clean Water SRF programs and more. Specifically, the bill would:

- Authorize \$40 billion over five years (\$8 billion/year) in wastewater infrastructure investments through the Clean Water SRF, which provides low-interest loans, loan subsidizations, and grants to communities for wastewater infrastructure. These funding levels are approximately a four-fold increase of \$6.37 billion additional funding/year from current funding levels (\$1.63 billion/year). These levels are supported by recent national infrastructure needs surveys for wastewater, combined sewer, and other stormwater assets.
- Authorize an additional **\$2** billion for grants to municipalities to capture, treat, or reuse sewer overflows or stormwater.
- Authorize new program funding for \$2.5 billion in grants for states to implement State water pollution control programs.
- Provide **\$1 billion** for Clean Water pilot programs for watershed-based efforts to address wet weather discharges, to promote stormwater best practices, to undertake integrated water resource management, and to increase climate resiliency.
- Authorize \$1 billion in grants for alternative water source projects, such as wastewater or stormwater reuse, to augment the existing water supplies.
- Provide \$1 billion in Clean Water Act grants to municipalities to implement treatment standards for PFAS and other emerging contaminants.
- Provide **\$2.5** billion in wastewater infrastructure assistance to address the backlog of critical needs for Tribal Nations.

Sante Esposito has been in constant contact with Congressional Leaders and Hill staffers on this matter. We are pushing for a "clean" bill to move to the Senate that focuses on funding these critical programs and is devoid of attached issues that will erode the bipartisan nature of the effort. It is likely this bill will be bundled into a larger infrastructure package.

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