



July 20, 2023

House Appropriations Committee Clears Bill Cutting SRF Funding

As we have previously reported via regular monthly reports, ad hoc updates, and the spring Business Meeting, the Clean Water Construction Coalition (CWCC) has been actively opposing any takedowns from, and reductions to, the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) that could result from House Republicans' proposed spending cuts and increases in Congressional earmarks.

These concerns have moved closer to reality with last night's approval by the House Appropriations Committee of the FY24 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill which includes significant cuts in SRF funding.

Under this bill, the FY24 general fund appropriation provided for the Clean Water SRF base allotment is \$535M from an expected \$1.639B. The general fund appropriation for the Safe Drinking Water SRF base allotment is \$460.6M from an expected \$1.126B.

While the CWCC and various stakeholders opposed these cuts, the bill was approved and now heads for a vote on the House Floor. Therefore, we encourage you to engage with your House Member and ask him/her to oppose these catastrophic cuts to clean water projects that are contrary to the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) which aimed to increase funding for SRFs over and above increases in the traditional appropriations process and not in lieu of reductions by that process.

Please note that in addition to requiring a House vote, this measure must also be approved by the Senate where it could undergo significant changes. We will continue to engage with lawmakers in both Houses and both parties as well as stakeholders on this issue and will keep you apprised of any developments on this or any other matters that affect CWCC members.

Attached is a sample letter that you could use to communicate with your House Member. More information from Key Advocates on the bill that was passed by the Committee and upcoming Senate Appropriations Committee action on its version of the bill will be forthcoming.

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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* Steering Committee Member

Sample Letter

Dear Congressman(woman) xxxx:

As a member of the Clean Water Construction Coalition (CWCC), a national coalition of utility construction associations representing 27 states committed to securing much-needed funding to meet the Nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs, I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of great urgency and importance and to respectfully request your support.

On Wednesday, July 19, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY24 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. Unfortunately, the Bill reduces the base allotments for the Clean Water (CWSRF) and Safe Drinking Water (SDWSRF) State Revolving Funds. It does so to accommodate related earmark funding and to help achieve overall spending for the Bill below the Debt Limit Extension Law. As you know that Law provides for a spending cap for FY24 at the FY23 levels. However, the Bill represents an overall spending reduction of 35%, or a \$13.4B cut, below the FY23 levels.

Specifically, the Bill provides only \$535M for the CWSRF base allotment from an expected \$1.639B and only \$460.6M for the SDWSRF base allotment from an expected \$1.126B, the result being that the SRF programs would be decimated. These amounts are also counter to the goal of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which was to increase SRF spending over and above increases in the traditional appropriations process and not in lieu of reductions by that process.

Clean water and safe drinking water go hand-in-hand. Clean, healthy, and affordable water is a unique and precious resource that is necessary to sustain life - human, animal, and plant. It is important for agriculture, transportation, flood control, energy production, recreation, fishing, and municipal and commercial uses. It also has a cascading impact on the Nation's economy, affecting business productivity, gross domestic product, employment, personal income, and international competitiveness. Lastly, and most importantly, it is something every American should be able to rely on.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that when the full House considers the bill you oppose the reductions to the SRF base allotments.

Sincerely yours,