



July 24, 2023

## SRF Funding Bill Scheduled for Senate Appropriations Committee Vote

Legislation funding the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) is now scheduled for consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee this Thursday.

As we have previously reported, under the House 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. Both SRF proposed funding levels are contrary to the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which aims to increase funding for the SRFs.

Therefore, we encourage you to engage your Senator and ask him/her to oppose SRF catastrophic clean water project cuts like those in the House bill and to support expected FY24 general fund base allotment levels, as noted below, for both SRFs.

Please note that this measure still requires Floor votes in both Chambers so we will continue to engage with both Senators and House Members ahead of and following Thursday's action and encourage you to do the same.

Attached is a sample letter that you could use to communicate with your Senators. We will continue to provide you with information on this issue as it becomes available.

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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\* Steering Committee Member

## Sample Letter

Dear Senator 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. This Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to markup its version of the FY24 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

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 general fund 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 general fund base allotment from an expected \$1.639B and only \$460.6M for the SDWSRF general fund 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 Senate Appropriations Committee considers the bill you oppose catastrophic SRF reductions as in the House bill and support expected FY24 general fund base allotment levels of \$1.639B for the CWSRF and \$1.126B for the SDWSRF.