



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

EPA Clean Water, Drinking Water and Stormwater Grants

Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: *Please support the inclusion of funding for **Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF / DWSRF) and stormwater grants** within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 reduces funding for capitalization grants for CWSRF by \$1.41B, DWSRF by \$557M and zeros out special grants for construction.*

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please consider the following when making **EPA Clean Water, Drinking Water and Stormwater** funding determinations in H.R. 1:

- This funding is critical to protecting public health and the environment while stimulating jobs and economic growth in America's cities and towns.
- The American Society of Civil Engineers infrastructure report card gave the nation's water infrastructure a D-, and EPA estimates a \$633 billion shortfall in water infrastructure funding over the next 20 years.
- Each day the nation suffers significant losses and damages from broken water and sewer mains, sewage overflows, and other symptoms of water infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life.
- Investments in water infrastructure provide significant economic benefits. The U.S. Conference of Mayors notes that each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. In addition, the Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the local water and sewer industry creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries.
- It is critical the federal government remains a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean, drinking and storm water needs.



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, maintaining adequate funding for **clean, drinking and/or storm water** is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

Project Name

Project Type and Description

Cost Estimate

Number of Jobs Created

Cost Efficiencies

Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region

Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment in the **Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and Stormwater grants** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure competitiveness, job creation, economic growth and the ability to address future challenges and opportunities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.