



**American Water Works
Association**

The Authoritative Resource on Safe WaterSM

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October 10, 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Chair
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chair
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations

Re: Economic stimulus legislation and the nation's drinking water

Dear Senators and Representatives,

If Congress again chooses to take up legislation to stimulate the nation's economy, the nation's water utilities stand ready to create immediate jobs and lasting economic benefits through investment in water infrastructure. We urge you to ensure that any stimulus legislation strengthens our public safety, public health, and job market by providing immediate funding to drinking water infrastructure projects.

Legislation recently approved by the House of Representatives (H.R. 7110) included \$6.5 billion for Clean Water infrastructure projects. Those funds would immediately provide work in the fields of construction, engineering, environmental planning, and similar professions, and add lasting value to America's vital infrastructure. Funding for the drinking water infrastructure projects provides the same immediate as well as long-lasting benefits, and deserves equivalent funding. Cities, towns, and rural communities cannot prosper without a safe and reliable supply of drinking water for public health and fire protection.

Drinking water utilities across the country are ready to initiate major projects to upgrade or rehabilitate their infrastructure, as soon as funding is available.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can answer any questions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Curtis
Deputy Executive Director for Government Affairs

cc/United States Senate
United States House of Representatives