



**American Water Works  
Association**

## Legislative Alert

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The Authoritative Resource for Safe Drinking Water<sup>SM</sup>

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### **LEGISLATIVE ALERT**

**TO: AWWA Leadership  
All Utilities**

**FROM: Tommy Holmes, AWWA Legislative Director**

**DATE: January 26, 2010**

<b>Who:</b>	<b>AWWA Utility Members</b>
<b>What:</b>	<b>Contact members of the U.S. Senate to ask them to support efforts to fund water infrastructure in Senate jobs bill</b>
<b>When:</b>	<b>Immediately</b>

Two leaders in drinking water issues in the U.S. Senate are attempting to generate support for funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in a jobs bill being drafted right now. Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, a member of Cardin's subcommittee and of the Budget Committee are the ones leading this effort. They are circulating what is called a "Dear Colleague" letter in the Senate seeking signatures for a letter they will send to the Senate leadership asking for the funding. (see attached)

Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois are the lead writers of the \$80 billion jobs bill. It has not been introduced yet, so there is no bill number.

- Call, e-mail or fax your senators and ask them to co-sign the "Dear Colleague" letter being circulated by Sens. Cardin and Whitehouse seeking funding for water infrastructure in the jobs bill.

There have been doubts expressed that the funding can be used in a timely manner, so if any of you have projects ready to go, mention these to your senators, not with the intention of seeking an earmark, but as an illustration that the money can be used by water utilities very quickly.

You can find contact information for members of the Senate at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or you can contact me in the AWWA Government Affairs Office at 202-326-6128 or by cell at 202-326-6128 or at [tholmes@awwa.org](mailto:tholmes@awwa.org).

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510


January 26, 2010

Dear Colleague:

We are reaching out to urge your support for including a robust investment in water and wastewater infrastructure in any jobs package that Congress may enact - \$3 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (CWSRF) and \$3 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (DWSRF). Such an investment is a wise use of federal funds as studies have shown that investment in water infrastructure creates solid jobs and contributes greatly to economic growth. In fact, it is estimated that every \$1 billion provided for water and wastewater infrastructure projects creates between 20,000 to 27,000 jobs and an economic ripple effect that adds \$2.87 to \$3.46 billion to the economy as a result of that investment. Furthermore, 33 states recently responded to a nationwide survey highlighting at least \$56 billion in ready to go water and wastewater projects available for funding that could be under construction with 90 – 270 days. As the Senate considers legislation to spur job creation, we must prioritize the investments that will have the greatest benefit, such as repairing and improving America's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Please review the attached letter to Senate Leadership urging their support for this investment. If you would like to sign-on to this letter, please contact Sarah Greenberger in Senator Cardin's office at 4-4524 or Brad Crowell in Senator Whitehouse's office at 4-2921. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 26, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

Should the Senate pursue a package of investments designed to spur job creation and growth in the economy at large, we request that you include a significant investment for water and wastewater infrastructure at least on par with overall funding levels included in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* - \$3 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (CWSRF) and \$3 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (DWSRF). We are certainly mindful, however, that any jobs program must be fiscally responsible regarding the deficit and we are prepared to work with you to reach that goal.

Investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is a wise use of federal funds. Studies have shown that investment in water infrastructure creates solid jobs and contributes greatly to economic growth. In fact, it is estimated that every \$1 billion provided for water and wastewater infrastructure projects creates between 20,000 to 27,000 jobs and an economic ripple effect that adds \$2.87 to \$3.46 billion to the economy as a result of that investment. A second round of investment in the CWSRF and DWSRF could be quickly distributed now that the States have developed expedited procedures under the *ARRA* program.

We know that American families are suffering from unacceptable levels of unemployment, imperiling our economic recovery, at a time when too many of our nation's water and wastewater systems are badly in need of repair. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there is an "infrastructure deficit" for water and wastewater of \$662 billion that is causing many communities to raise rates at the same time that households are struggling to make ends meet. Though the *ARRA* helped reduce this "infrastructure deficit" somewhat, according to a recent survey by the Environment Council of the States (ECOS), thirty three States have over \$56 billion in ready-to-go water and wastewater infrastructure projects awaiting financing through the State Revolving Fund programs for wastewater and drinking water.

Ensuring that America's water resources are available for public use, and to protect public health, is becoming a greater challenge for all of our communities. Each of our States faces broken water mains, sewage overflows, and scarcity of supply throughout any given year, yet over the past decade, we have seen federal investments in clean and safe water drastically

cut. At the same time, it is well documented that communities that can afford to invest in their water resources do well economically – attracting business investment, commercial fishing operations, and recreational opportunities for their residents. This economic activity, in turn, creates jobs.

Unemployment in the construction industry is over 19%. States need over \$56 billion for immediate water and wastewater infrastructure needs. Spending on water and wastewater infrastructure creates good paying jobs and improves overall economic activity. If the Senate moves forward with a jobs package, no investment makes more sense than one in water infrastructure. We urge you to include \$3 billion for the CWSRF and \$3 billion for the DWSRF.

Sincerely,

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Cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman, Environment and Public Works Committee  
The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee  
The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee