

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 12, 2012

Chairman John Mica  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mica,

As the number of legislative days in this Congress grows short, and the Committee's efforts to complete a surface transportation bill are now concluded, we urge the Committee to turn to other pressing infrastructure needs that warrant our attention. Specifically, we urge you to schedule a markup of H.R. 3145, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011 that will make long, overdue investments in our nation's water infrastructure systems and benefit both our communities and our economy.

Just like surface transportation programs, the need for investment in wastewater infrastructure is great, and reauthorizing and reforming programs to rebuild our crumbling water infrastructure systems will create jobs. For, every \$1 billion we spend on wastewater infrastructure we can create as many as 33,000 jobs in communities across America while improving public health and the environment.

In 2008, states documented almost \$300 billion in wastewater treatment, pipe replacement and repair, and stormwater management projects that need to be fulfilled over the next 20 years. However, in 2011, Federal appropriations to the Clean Water State Revolving Funds totaled only \$690 million, just 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the annual amount necessary to address the State-identified needs to modernize and repair our aging systems.

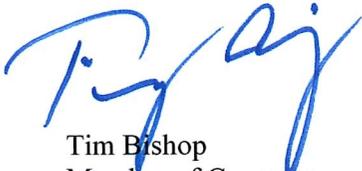
The bipartisan Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011 renews the Federal commitment to addressing our Nation's substantial needs for wastewater infrastructure by investing \$13.8 billion in the State Revolving Funds (SRF) over the next five years. Recognizing that additional resources will be necessary to address the level of need, the bill establishes two complimentary, new initiatives for the long-term, sustainable financing of wastewater infrastructure, while preserving the fundamental locally-driven SRF structure.

One of these innovative approaches includes direct loan and loan guarantee programs, often referred to as the "WIFIA approach," is designed after the popular Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act or "TIFIA approach" for highway projects. The second approach is a Clean Water Infrastructure Trust Fund. Similar initiatives have been pursued by Republican and Democratic leaders of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, and when implemented in concert, would leverage billions of additional dollars to meet local wastewater infrastructure needs, create jobs, and protect our public health and environmental quality at a potentially-reduced cost to American taxpayers.

Meeting the critical water infrastructure investment needs of our local communities is not a partisan issue. These are investments that benefit our constituents, the economies of our States and communities, and provide the added benefit of protecting public health and the environment. That is why, in each of the last five Congresses, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has advanced legislative actions to rebuild our nation's wastewater infrastructure, including several overwhelmingly bipartisan votes in Committee and on the House floor under the leadership of former-Chairmen Shuster, Young, and Oberstar. It is imperative, that we continue that bipartisan effort until we are successful.

The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011 is a bipartisan proposal that enjoys broad support from the Associated General Contractors of America, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, the National League of Cities, the Water Infrastructure Network, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Construction Alliance II, the American Public Works Association and many others. We urge the Committee to take action on this legislation at the next scheduled markup.

Sincerely,



Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Bill Keating  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Jerry Costello  
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress



Pete Stark  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Leonard Boswell  
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II, Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
The Honorable Bob Gibbs, Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment