



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive  
Public Works Resource

[www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)

1200 Main Street, Suite 1400  
Kansas City, MO 64105-2100  
816-472-6100 800-848-APWA  
fax 816-472-1610

25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Suite 500A  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-408-9541

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chairman  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and our more than 30,000 members, I am writing to thank you for your continued work and focus on our nation's infrastructure. A perfect example of this focus is your work on the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. APWA is appreciative of your efforts to craft these important bipartisan bills to address water infrastructure issues. We are especially appreciative of your work to include language that will make public works agencies eligible for federal water workforce funding, as well as reauthorizing and increasing funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, reauthorizing, and increasing funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program and reauthorizing the Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

The language in Section 211 of the legislation reauthorizes an existing competitive grant program at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that assists in getting people into the pipeline for careers in the water sector. Additionally, the language increases the funding to \$5 million annually through fiscal year 2026. Finally, the language provides a definition for public works departments and agencies that specifically makes those entities eligible for these funds. In practice, public works departments and agencies are already providing credentialing and accreditation for those interested in joining the water workforce, helping to develop the next generation water sector professionals. Allowing public works agencies and departments to access these federal funds will provide needed assistance in identifying, training, and retaining the next generation of water sector professionals.

Reauthorization of the CWSRF and DWSRF programs is vital to helping bring our water infrastructure into a state of good repair. The CWSRF and DWSRF programs are important tools used across all 50 states and in communities of all sizes to help them make water infrastructure investments more affordably. Increasing funding for these programs to a maximum of \$3.25 billion in FY 2026 will help communities meet the massive demand for infrastructure investment across the nation. Additionally, reauthorizing the WIFIA program will aid communities looking to undertake large-scale water infrastructure projects that would overwhelm the SRF allotment for that state. Combined use of CWSRF and WIFIA programs will greatly increase the federal funding for water infrastructure investment.

PRESIDENT  
Mary Joyce Ivers, CFPF, PWLF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Scott D. Grayson, CAE



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APWA is extremely supportive of the work your Committee has done to address the issues surrounding water infrastructure in our country. Specifically, we are pleased to see inclusion of the following provisions in the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021:

- Reauthorization of the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (Sec. 102).
- Lead Mapping Pilot Program (Sec. 105);
- Operational Sustainability of Small Public Water Systems (Sec. 106);
- Needs Assessment for Nationwide Rural and Urban Low-Income Community Water Assistance (Sec. 108);
- Sewer overflow control grants (Sec. 204);
- Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program (Sec. 205)
- Reauthorization of Clean Water State Revolving Funds (Sec. 210);
- Water infrastructure and workforce investment (Sec. 211); and
- Water Infrastructure Finance Reauthorization (Sec. 215);

All these elements combine to make this bill a positive step in finding solutions to our nation's water infrastructure problems.

Each day public works professionals are diligently working to protect and maintain the critical infrastructure that is so essential to protecting our health and quality of life. Because of our shared commitment, APWA looks forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on this legislation to help public works professionals meet our water infrastructure challenges.

Sincerely,

Mary Joyce Ivers, PWLF  
President

Scott D. Grayson, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer

PRESIDENT  
Mary Joyce Ivers, CPFP, PWLF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Scott D. Grayson, CAE