



April 22, 2020

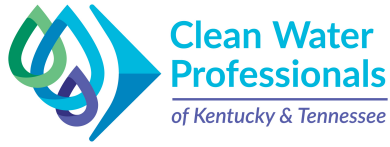
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
US Congress  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Essential Services – Clean Water

Investing in Essential Clean Water projects is a critical part of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky and Tennessee (CWP-KT) and the entire water sector understand how important our collection and treatment systems are to protect public health. CWP-KT is one of 75 member associations of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) representing the entire clean water sector, including public utilities, engineering firms, manufacturers, vendors and trades. Our 1,000+ clean water professionals are dedicated to providing these essential services through the pandemic and understand how vital their services are for the essential health of their communities, working 24/7 to ensure that the collection systems remain clog-free and the Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs) continue to clean water, and release to our many rivers, lakes and streams helping maintain safe clean waterways.

In the immediate future (0-2 years) **Kentucky's clean water project needs total \$893 million.** They are shovel-ready, essential service projects that will boost our local and regional economies by providing jobs and keeping construction trades, manufacturers, engineering firms and all their associated sub-contractors employed and thriving during this pandemic and its recovery. Stimulus worked during the Great Depression, the 2008 recession, and can work again. A list of projects is attached. The list was generated with assistance of the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), Area Development Districts (ADDs), as well as a survey of our utility partners.

Each job in water infrastructure construction adds 3.68 jobs to the economy. Even during a global pandemic, the water sector continues protecting people and resources by being the stewards of the many lakes, rivers and streams throughout the nation. Our work literally flows through our communities. Quality water means quality of life. By investing in our sector, we'll continue to do our part to help our states and country thrive.



In addition to infrastructure funding needs, clean water utilities are also faced with significant revenue decline due to the pandemic. The loss of revenue makes it harder for utilities to balance budgets without contemplating larger rate increases on already struggling customers. We ask that Congressional leaders find ways to include public water systems in any final assistance package that is sent to the President.

Thank you for your continued service in office, and your assistance in securing funding for clean water infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky and Tennessee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Valerie A. Lucas".

Valerie A. Lucas, P.E.  
Executive Director, CWP-KT

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Maron".

Paul Maron, P.E.  
KY Delegate, CWP-KT

cc: Wes Sydnor, Government Affairs Chair, CWP-KT  
Shannon Lambert, President, CWP-KT