



May 14, 2020

Honorable James Comer

1037 Longworth HOB

Washington, DC 20515

RE: Essential Services – Clean Water

Dear Representative Comer,

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) estimates that clean water agencies will face a \$12.5 billion loss of revenue, which is a 20 percent direct impact on utility budgets due to COVID-19. Clean water utilities are 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.

As Congress considers coronavirus response legislation, Clean Water Professionals of KY & TN (CWP-KT) urges the following be included in the bill:

- Federal assistance to cover costs associated with moratoriums on water service disconnections, or reconnections of delinquent accounts, that water systems have implemented in response to the pandemic;
- Grant or low interest loan funding to help support utility operations at a time when revenues are dropping dramatically; and
- Inclusion of funding for all utility providers through existing water infrastructure investment programs such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) programs.

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. Stimuluses worked during the Great Depression, the 2008 recession, and can work again.



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.

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

Sincerely,

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

Valerie A. Lucas, PE
Executive Director, CWP-KT

About Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee (CWP-KT): 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.