



# New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

*The Water Quality Management Professionals*

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23 February 2007

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Charles Schumer:

On behalf of the New York Water Environment Association, I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. This important piece of legislation authorizes much-needed funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. I urge you to support its quick passage.

America's needs in water infrastructure are tremendous. Reports by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN) all show a water infrastructure funding gap of between \$300 billion and \$500 billion over the next 20 years. H.R. 720, by authorizing \$20 billion over five years for the SRF program, will begin to address this funding backlog.

In addition, the bill also includes language that will require the GAO to report back to Congress by January 1, 2008 on "funding mechanisms and funding sources available to establish a Clean Water Trust Fund," thereby setting the stage for later congressional action on establishing a long-term source of water infrastructure funding. A stable, fully-funded clean water trust fund similar in operation to the successful highway trust fund is the long-term answer to addressing water infrastructure needs in this country.

The New York Water Environment Association, municipalities throughout the state and many engineering companies are proud of the essential role we play in the design, maintenance and construction of our nation's water infrastructure. We applaud the House of Representatives for moving forward quickly on H.R. 720, and we now ask for your support.

This is an important decision and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President