

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

New York State has some of the oldest and most unsafe water infrastructure in the country, and yet, the way we fund necessary improvements to this system often doesn't meet the need for many upstate communities. We need to start upgrading our systems now so that every New Yorker can rely on good, clean water for years to come.

Across the state, particularly in our smaller communities, water infrastructure is corroding, causing dangerous, costly breaks and massive disruptions. To help solve these challenges, the Governor proposed additional funding for the Clean Water State Grants and Revolving Loan Fund, however, this dire issue has shown that it cannot be solved through one-time grants and loans alone. The current set up of the grants structure does not allow funding to make its way to the communities that need it the most and that lack the staff and resources to obtain this funding. Additionally, the one-time nature makes it nearly impossible for municipalities to plan year-over-year for maintenance and upgrades when continued funding assistance is necessary.

Therefore, we respectfully request the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP - [S4350](#)) be funded at \$100 million in the final enacted budget. This program would retain the grant allocations associated with the Clean Water State Grants initiative while creating separate, streamlined funding to resemble a CHIPs-style program that will help local communities plan and pay for water system upgrades and repairs.

The benefits of stable and reliable water infrastructure are clear - economic growth for businesses, enhanced quality of life for residents, and modern infrastructure that can withstand the climate crisis. Our communities need fewer barriers to complete essential projects and SWAP will bring steady, reliable support to help those communities fund modernizations before disasters and unsafe conditions happen. Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter and we respectfully ask for its inclusion in the enacted budget.



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



March 27, 2023

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building 932
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Speaker Heastie,

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