



## The New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

### *The Water Quality Management Professionals*

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October 18, 2018

Assemblyman Raymond Walter  
NYS Assembly District 146  
402 LOB  
Albany, NY 12248

Assemblyman David DiPietro  
NYS Assembly District 147  
543 LOB  
Albany, NY 12248

RE: Assembly Minority Task Force on Critical Infrastructure and  
Transportation

Dear Assembly Members Walter and DiPietro,

This letter is in response to the Western NY Regional Forum to discuss the  
above referenced issues later today.

On behalf of the 2,700 members of the NY Water Environment Association we  
would like to thank you for understanding the vital role and impact that clean  
water has in your districts and throughout New York State.

We appreciate the annual portion of the five year \$2.5 billion from the 2015  
Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) to be included in the FY19-20  
budget. This \$2.5 billion over 5 years provides a kick-start towards the \$31.4  
billion needed in the next 20 years for wastewater infrastructure alone. **To  
continue to protect public health and the environment, as well as  
support the state's economy, this level of commitment by the state needs  
to go beyond the present five year horizon. We are asking for an annual  
authorization and appropriation of funds to assist the local  
communities to meet all of the obligations related to protection of water  
quality.**

*In 2007, The British Medical Journal readers selected the "sanitary revolution,"  
the introduction of clean water and sewage disposal, as the most important  
medical advancement since 1840 when the journal was first published.  
Sanitation was rated more important than anesthesia, the development of  
antibiotics, and the advancement of vaccines! The fact that medical  
professionals made this selection underscores the importance of these  
infrastructure systems to our communities.*

Public infrastructure investments also create positive economic activity and jobs. Over 20 years, each \$1.00 invested in sewer and water infrastructure returns \$2.03 of local, state and federal tax revenue. Over time, clean water investments pay for themselves and produce tax revenue for future spending.<sup>1</sup> Every dollar invested in the water sector creates \$6.35 in long term GDP and every new water infrastructure job that will be created as a result of this additional funding creates 3.68 new jobs within the sector.<sup>2</sup>

***NYWEA and its members would like to thank you for your past support towards investments in water quality improvements – be it the 2015 Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, the Environmental Protection Fund, or other programs. However, our message to you today is that more financial resources will be needed. It is time to set in place an annual authorization and appropriation of funds specifically for water/wastewater infrastructure.***

***Local sewer utilities in Western New York collectively have over a half-billion dollars in needs to upgrade these critical systems that protect public health and the environment, as well as support our economy.***

We are including with this letter NYWEA's [messaging document](#), we hope you find it insightful. Economic Development and environmental responsibility go hand-in-hand, and jobs are connected with improved water quality. New York's economy runs on our vital water infrastructure.

***We ask you, “What is more important than water?”***

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Baldwin, P.E., BCEE  
NYWEA President

Encl.

<sup>1</sup> I. Cohen et al., 2012. The Economic Impact and Financing of Infrastructure Spending. College of William and Mary. Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy, Williamsburg, VA.

<sup>2</sup> R.Krop et al., 2008. Local Government Investment in Municipal Water and Sewer Infrastructure: Adding Value to the National Economy. US Conference of Mayors Water Council, Washington, DC.