

December 7, 2018

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Clean Water Infrastructure Funding Needed in SFY 2019-20 Executive Budget

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations from across New York State, we respectfully urge you to make an additional investment of at least \$2.5 billion in clean water infrastructure beginning in the SFY 2019-20 Executive Budget. This new investment, combined with the remaining three years of funding under the Clean Water Infrastructure Act (CWIA) of 2017, will help communities across the state make significant progress in addressing the challenges they are facing in protecting clean water for New York residents.

Our organizations are grateful for your leadership in championing the CWIA, which is providing \$2.5 billion over five years to upgrade water infrastructure and help protect drinking water across our state. We are also encouraged by recent public comments in which you called for a new \$10 billion investment in protecting and enhancing New York's environment. We applaud this bold announcement and believe that a significant portion of new environmental funding should be used to address our state's massive clean water needs.

Investments made through the CWIA are making a tremendous impact in advancing shovel-ready projects, protecting drinking water quality, and creating jobs throughout New York. According to your recent press release announcing an additional round of water infrastructure funding, \$750 million in WIIA and inter-municipal grant funding is supporting nearly \$2.65 billion in total project costs for vital drinking and wastewater infrastructure projects statewide, which is expected to support more than 47,000 jobs in the construction, supplier and service sectors. This funding is providing much-needed financial relief to local governments, protecting our treasured waters, safeguarding public health, and helping to drive economic development.

These investments are yielding significant results; however, we still have much work to do to address all of New York's clean water needs. Only about 30% of those that have applied for funding under WIIA have received funding, meaning that approximately 70% of applications have not been funded. This speaks to both the popularity of the grant program, as well as the need to provide additional funding to meet the clean water infrastructure needs of communities across the state.

As you know, New York State has estimated that the combined wastewater and drinking water needs in the state exceed \$80 billion over the next 20 years. Numbers like these have translated

to a reality that has meant thousands of water main breaks that wreak havoc on local economies, contaminated drinking water supplies that threaten public health, and billions of gallons of raw and combined sewage that foul our precious waterways. We have solutions to these problems, and we can't afford not to use them.

Again, thank you for your leadership in protecting clean water in New York State. We respectfully urge you to make an additional investment of at least \$2.5 billion in clean water infrastructure beginning in the SFY 2019-20 Executive Budget. Representatives from our coalition would also welcome the opportunity to meet with your staff to learn more about your proposed \$10 billion investment for environmental protection, and to discuss how that can best be used to protect and restore clean water across the state.

Please feel free to reach out to Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director at Citizens Campaign for the Environment if you or your staff would like to meet with us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William C. Janeway
Executive Director
Adirondack Council

Ana Paula Tavares
Executive Director
Audubon New York

Mike Elmendorf
President & CEO
Associated General Contractors of NYS

Jill Jedlicka
Executive Director
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

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Building Contractors Association of Westchester & Mid-Hudson Region, Inc.

Peter Iwanowicz
Executive Director
Environmental Advocates of New York

Nisha Persaud Swinton
Northeast Senior Organizer
Food & Water Watch

Joan Leary Matthews
Senior Attorney & Director
Urban Water, Healthy People & Thriving Communities Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

Julie Tighe
President
New York League of Conservation Voters

Jenny Ingraio
Executive Director
New York Section
American Water Works Association (AWWA)

Geoffrey Baldwin
President
New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA)

David Church, AICP
Commissioner of Planning & Water Authority Executive Director
Orange County Water Authority

Sam Magavern
Executive Director
Partnership for the Public Good

Rahwa Ghirmatzion
Executive Director
PUSH Buffalo

Paul Gallay
President
Riverkeeper

Tracy Brown
Director
Save the Sound

Andy Bicking
Director of Public Policy & Special Projects
Scenic Hudson, Inc.

Jessica Ottney Mahar
New York Policy Director
The Nature Conservancy

Carter Strickland
New York State Director
The Trust for Public Land

Martin Aman
Executive Director
Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority (WCW&SA)

Antonina Simeti
Executive Director
Western New York Environmental Alliance