



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

July 22, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – we strongly express serious concerns over the significant funding cuts included in HR 2584, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2012 for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.

While we understand the need to confront the challenges facing the nation’s finances, the proposed reductions in funding for wastewater projects by 55% and drinking water by 14% would seriously undermine ongoing efforts by communities throughout the country to address critical water infrastructure needs.

The Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRFs are a time-tested, objective and effective method to leverage federal dollars for the construction of water infrastructure critical to virtually every congressional district. Numerous studies show that every public dollar spent on water infrastructure generates two –to –three times economic input in the private sector. According to a recent study by the Clean Water Council, every \$1 billion invested in water projects creates up to 27,000 jobs.

States and communities also have a demonstrated track record in getting SRF funds quickly put to work on local projects. A General Accountability Office report last month (GAO-11-608, June 29, 2011) illustrated that effectiveness by pointing out that all fifty states “awarded and obligated all the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF program funds provided under the Recovery Act.” In addition, all the states met the Act’s requirement to award funds to projects under contract one year after the Act’s passage, using the funds to support more than 3,000 water quality projects.

We respectfully urge you to restore SRF funding to at least the Fiscal Year 2011 levels and continue to support our nation’s communities struggling to maintain their aging and stressed water systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond", is written over a horizontal line.