

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

As you draft Fiscal Year 2027 legislation for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, we urge you to robustly fund those agencies and programs that protect public health, the environment, and the economy. Investment in these programs ensures that communities have access to clean and safe water while promoting economic growth through hazardous waste site redevelopment and public parks infrastructure.

#### **EPA – Drinking Water and Wastewater**

Well-maintained public drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems are critical for public health and a strong, robust economy. ASCE's *2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure* gave the nation's drinking water infrastructure a grade of "C-," and the nation's stormwater and wastewater infrastructure fared even worse with a grade of "D" and "D+" respectively. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided a needed infusion of federal funding to the nation's water infrastructure; however, these additional funds will cease at the end of FY 2026, making robust funding for federal financing programs increasingly vital. Congress must take the necessary step in reauthorizing critical water infrastructure financing programs and ensuring they receive adequate funding to close the growing investment gap. ASCE urges the subcommittee to renew the federal government's commitment to drinking water, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure by including the following in the FY27 appropriations legislation:

- **Ensuring that historic infrastructure investments made by IIJA continue to be built upon by funding the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs at a level of \$4.92 billion and \$3.4 billion respectively; and**
- **Fully funding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at no less than the FY26 enacted level of \$72.27 million.**

The CWSRF and DWSRF play a critical role in supporting water infrastructure repairs and upgrades. These programs provide states and localities with a critical source of funding for water infrastructure projects through low-interest loans since their original authorizations in 1987 and 1996, respectively.

IIJA made a significant investment of \$55 billion in clean water and drinking water infrastructure over five years. However, in 2024, ASCE found an existing gap between water infrastructure funding and

needs of \$91 billion, which is expected to grow to over \$2 trillion by 2043. In addition, in 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that the nation’s drinking water infrastructure needs stood at \$625 billion over the next 20 years, which is 30% higher than the assessed need in 2018. And EPA determined the clean water infrastructure 20 year need to be \$630.1 billion, a 43% increase from its 2012 assessment. Despite these growing investment needs, since FY 21, both CWSRF and DWSRF funding have remained flat. A significant increase in annual appropriations for both programs is necessary to close the increasing investment gap.

We also ask that the committee take steps to reform its Community Project Funding (CPF) practices as regards SRF projects. Congress annually sets aside significant portions of SRF program appropriation levels for CPF projects. In FY 2026 alone, \$715 million of a total appropriation of \$1.126 billion for the DWSRF was set aside for CPF. The money provided for these projects not only reduces the total allocation to states, but those funds are not subject to state project vetting and selection rules, and repayments do not flow back through the fund, which is what makes the program revolving fund. **ASCE requests that any funding provided for CPF water infrastructure projects be appropriated in addition to SRF program appropriations and not taken directly from SRF appropriations.**

In 2014, Congress created WIFIA (P.L. 113 – 121, Sec. 5021), a new mechanism to primarily fund large water infrastructure projects over \$20 million. This program offers the sponsors of large projects a new tool to leverage limited federal resources, stimulate additional investment in our nation's infrastructure, and encourage greater private sector participation in meeting the nation’s clean water needs. The IJA took needed step of reauthorizing WIFIA through FY 2026. The EPA estimates that a \$20 million annual level of appropriations will result in approximately \$1 billion in loans supporting approximately \$2 billion in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments.

#### Improving Infrastructure Performance and Enhancing Resilience

ASCE believes that infrastructure projects designed and maintained with resilience in mind can result in longer-term project viability, cost savings over time, reduced negative impacts on communities and the environment, and increased public involvement in decision making. The adoption of frameworks and standards to help deliver resilient, fiscally responsible projects can help ensure that infrastructure systems are designed and built to last well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Sustainable practices will continue to be critically important in the development of infrastructure.

**To better assist infrastructure owners and operators, ASCE urges the subcommittee to include the following language in its FY 2027 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill:**

*“The Committee recognizes the role standards play in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of safe, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure. The Committee encourages the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to adopt rating tools, frameworks and standards that provide guidelines for resilient infrastructure projects and incentivize higher performance goals. In particular, such frameworks and standards can be considered in the development of funding and financing programs, and guidance pertaining to infrastructure laws.”*

#### **EPA – Brownfields**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Brownfields program plays a critical role in the overall infrastructure that manages hazardous waste. This program improves the condition of the nation’s

infrastructure by supporting grants to clean up property contaminated by hazardous waste, chemicals, or other substances so that it can be redeveloped. Brownfields grants can increase residential property values and provide environmental and economic benefits that positively impact rural, suburban, and urban communities.

- **We urge the Subcommittee to fund the Brownfields program at \$26 million in FY27.**

ASCE's 2025 *Report Card* gave our nation's hazardous waste a grade of "C." Although more than half of the nation's population lives within three miles of a hazardous site, only about 30% of grant proposals submitted to the EPA are funded. Current funding levels are less than what is needed to optimize the benefits of this successful program; increased funding would leverage more dollars and stimulate job growth and economic benefit while improving the condition of the nation's infrastructure.

#### **Interior – Public Lands**

Public parks and public lands are critical drivers of our nation's economy, as well as a source of water for the 180 million people in over 68,000 communities who receive their drinking water from national forests and grasslands that capture and filter it. In fact, the Outdoor Industry Association's 2017 *Outdoor Recreation Economy* report found that the outdoor recreation economy, which relies heavily on public parks and lands, directly supports 7.6 million American jobs and generates \$125 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue. Although public parks and lands enjoy broad support, chronic underfunding of our parks infrastructure continues to plague the system, threatening both the safety of these infrastructure systems and the ability to meet the demand of a growing population.

- **We urge the Subcommittee to appropriate \$3.8 billion in FY27 for the National Park Service.**

#### **Interior – U.S. Geological Survey**

ASCE supports fully funding the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Earthquake Hazards Reduction (NEHRP) and streamgaging programs. Legislation (PL 115 – 307) amended prior NEHRP authorizations and provided for expanded activities to include: gathering information on community resilience (i.e., the ability of a community to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to earthquakes); publishing a systematic set of maps of active faults and folds, liquefaction susceptibility, susceptibility for earthquake-induced landslides, and other seismically induced hazards; and continuing the development of the Advanced National Seismic System, including earthquake early warning capabilities.

USGS' streamgaging program provides consistent, scientifically reliable data that is essential for flood-risk assessments, water supply planning, water quality appraisals, and stream flow forecasting. We urge the Subcommittee to include the following in the FY27 appropriations legislation:

- **fully fund the NEHRP program at \$94.9 million; and**
- **fund the streamgaging programs at \$111 million**

In conclusion, ASCE believes our nation must prioritize the investment needs of infrastructure to ensure public safety, a strong economy, and the protection of our environmental resources. Strategic, robust, and sustained investments, through long-term, reliable federal funding, as well as through the utilization of alternative financing mechanisms, must be made quickly if we hope to close the growing funding gap and restore America's world-class infrastructure.

We thank you for your consideration of our funding requests and look forward to working with the Subcommittee to fund these existing successful federal infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Sevier".

Caroline Sevier  
Managing Director, Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives  
American Society of Civil Engineers

cc: Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Committee on Appropriations