

Transmitted Via Email

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Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Suzan DelBene
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rick Larsen
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Dan Newhouse
460 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Michael Baumgartner
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Emily Randall
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Pramila Jayapal
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Kim Schrier
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Adam Smith
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Marilyn Strickland
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Washington State Congressional Delegation:

The Federal Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) are the workhorses of water utility funding. These distinctly successful programs allow utilities across the country, large and small, rural and urban, to finance necessary infrastructure projects. This funding supports projects that are critical to our ability to protect public health and ensure reliable service by replacing aged infrastructure, supporting compliance with regulatory requirements, and meeting the demands of growth and prosperity. Most of these funds go to the private sector through jobs, engineering services and construction in every community in our country. We've come together with one voice, public and private sector, across Washington State, to seek your support for protecting the SRF program and sustaining this important federal, state, and local partnership.

It was extremely troubling to learn of the Administration's proposed federal fiscal year 2026 budget request, which would all but eliminate this crucial program. The FFY26 budget request suggests \$2.46 billion in cuts to the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds – a full 90 percent less than existing funding level – which is already about half of the authorized program level. We ask you to actively oppose this proposal.

Ending the SRF program would decimate water systems' ability to provide basic drinking water and wastewater services to communities without significant and unsustainable rate hikes, and risk to public health. It would mean financial stress on communities, projects delayed, jobs lost,

and less reliable drinking water and wastewater service. Water systems are already chronically underfunded. EPA's own data shows that the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems face more than \$1.2 trillion capital improvement needs over the next 20 years just to reliably maintain current service.

Because SRF revolving loans return to the states for redistribution, the original federal investment grows significantly. For the Clean Water SRF in Washington state, just under \$1B in federal investment has turned into \$3B in funding to support clean water projects across our state since the program's inception. Over the past ten years, \$1.7B was invested in wastewater projects, \$47M in nonpoint source control, \$47M in onsite septic repair and replacement, and \$29M in stormwater treatment, accompanied by technical assistance where needed. Some of these funds go in the form of forgivable loans to projects in disadvantaged communities, allowing important projects to be built where there might not be adequate local funding available. In 2025, the Washington Department of Health has about \$150M in Drinking Water SRF capital loan and grants or forgivable loans to award; they received about \$250M in applications. WADOH prioritizes projects that address the biggest risk to public health, as well as those that allow the utility to stay in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Like Clean Water SRF, a portion of these funds are set aside for technical assistance to smaller utilities, as well as forgivable loans for disadvantaged communities. Drinking water projects range from \$12M to the City of Vancouver for PFAS treatment, to \$15M to the City of Quincy for reservoir improvements, to \$844K to the City of Newport for a tank rehabilitation project; these and many other projects are critical to these water systems, and SRF funding allows them to be constructed.

The Administration's FFY26 budget proposal incorrectly asserts that the SRF program is redundant of the WIFIA program. These are complementary programs but do not support the same system needs. SRF funding is allocated to each state through formula funding for loans and grants to support a wide range of water infrastructure projects across all communities. The WIFIA program is a nationwide competitive loan program for largescale water infrastructure projects. Both programs are heavily relied upon by water utilities and are critical for construction of safe drinking water, stormwater and wastewater projects. In fact, the Administration's fuller budget proposal also proposes significantly reducing the WIFIA program, a move we also strongly oppose.

As you work to develop FFY26 spending for EPA, we ask you to not abandon and please fully fund water infrastructure programs at levels consistent with their authorized amounts:

- \$3.25 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- \$3.25 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- \$80 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program

These programs are critical to sustaining utilities, protecting public health, and promoting economic growth in your districts and states. We have examples from every district and we're happy to work with your office to provide this information to you. Please protect the SRF and WIFIA programs and support funding them at their fully authorized levels in the 2026 fiscal year.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue. Please reach out if we can provide anything further.

Sincerely,

Name
Title
Organization