

Congressional Briefing on Water Infrastructure Policy

Working together to find solutions to maintain and strengthen our nation's water and wastewater systems

Rayburn House Office Building, 2167

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Resilient and sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure is essential to securing safe drinking water, public health, a clean environment, and American jobs. However, reports of water infrastructure failures across the country have shaken public confidence in community water systems. Our nation's water infrastructure needs significant investment and reform.

Today's briefing will gather leaders in the water and wastewater infrastructure sectors to address the issues plaguing our nation's water systems and identify solutions. Topics will include:

- Removing investment barriers and facilitating partnerships among water and wastewater systems
- Funding and financing alternatives and improvements
- Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of utility operations
- Accelerating the adoption of innovative technologies

In Partnership With:



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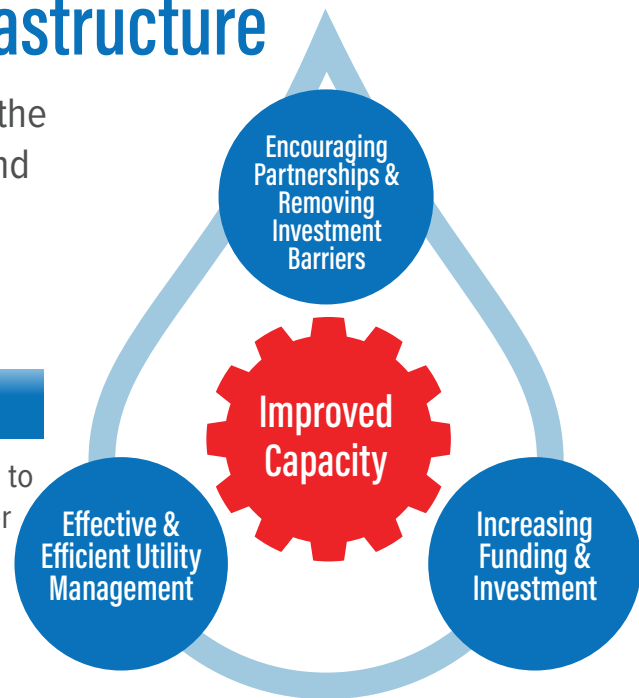
Building a 21st Century Water Infrastructure

Over \$1 trillion is needed over the next 20 years to slow the decline of and to repair and rebuild our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure systems. This crisis requires a fundamental, unified shift in the U.S.'s water system policies, including:

ENCOURAGING PARTNERSHIPS & REMOVING INVESTMENT BARRIERS

Increasing the financial resources and operational expertise available to small and mid-size systems by incentivizing partnerships among water systems and other entities through:

- Offering more financial incentives
- Providing a regulatory safe harbor
- Improving compliance and operational scale
- Eliminating the debt defeasance penalty



INCREASING FEDERAL FUNDING & PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Provide more financial resources to local systems by:

- Increasing Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding from its current \$20M to the authorized level of \$45M, which, considering WIFIA leverages funding at a ratio of >50:1, would fund \$3 billion in infrastructure investment
- Raising state revolving loan funds levels, including \$3 billion each to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the Clean Water SRF
- Providing more technical assistance to small and rural systems
- Removing the state volume caps on private activity bonds
- Retaining the tax exemptions for municipal bonds and expanding eligibility of all systems for SRF loans

IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS & EFFICIENCY OF UTILITY MANAGEMENT

Improve utility management by:

- Eliminating redundancies and streamlining the SRF application process to make it easier for smaller systems to seek assistance
- Encouraging effective utility management and best practices, including full-cost accounting
- Accelerating the adoption of innovative technologies by establishing the National Water Test Bed Network to expedite and improve the evaluation, demonstration, and approval of technologies
- Creating a national program for collaboration and sharing of best practices
- Empowering and preserving local decision-making in the design and construction of utility systems