

May 18, 2017

Dear Member of Congress,

The undersigned organizations urge you to support the Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act (H.R. 1673).

Federal funding for our public water and sewer systems has decreased significantly. From 1977 to 2014 per capita funding for water infrastructure decreased by 82 percent. Meanwhile, many of our water systems are reaching the end of their lifespan and are in desperate need of costly repairs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that we will need at least \$697-billion over the next 20 years to update our drinking water and wastewater systems.

Failing infrastructure isn't our only problem, however; in many parts of the country, people do not have access to safe drinking water and wastewater disposal because of a lack of investment in developing new infrastructure.

The Trump administration has promised an infrastructure plan that likely will include massive tax breaks to Wall Street and corporations to privatize our nation's infrastructure. Privatization, including through public-private partnerships, is a terrible idea for water and sewer systems. Water privatization often results in increased water rates, deteriorated service quality and a loss of water department jobs. Worse, many of the communities most in need of water upgrades, including in rural and low-income areas and communities of color, would be left out of Trump's plan because private companies won't invest in places where they can't make money. We need a plan for upgrading our water infrastructure that will create jobs and help all communities, regardless of their size or credit rating.

The WATER Act will invest \$35-billion annually in water infrastructure, and allow us to begin to ensure that all people in the country have access to the safe, affordable water service that they deserve and we can create nearly 1-million jobs across the economy in the process.

The WATER Act will:

- Create the WATER Fund, which would be funded by ending the deferral on income taxes on offshore corporate profits, and would be distributed annually through the existing Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.
- Allow state Drinking Water SRFs to issue grants to private properties to replace homeowners' service lines that contain, or may contain, lead.
- Establish a School Drinking Water Improvement Grant program to provide funding to public schools that wish to test, repair, replace, or install the infrastructure necessary to ensure drinking water fountains or bottle filling stations are lead free.
- Amend the Drinking Water SRF eligibility to restrict funding to publicly owned and operated water systems and small private mom-and-pop systems, so that large water corporations no longer take subsidized loans and resources away from municipal and small systems. It allows communities to use SRF funds to buy private water systems.

- Support affordability programs to help prevent water shutoffs.
- Assist small, rural and tribal communities to make necessary improvements to their water and wastewater systems.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

9to5, National Association of Working Women
 ACRE (Action Center on Race & the Economy, formerly ReFund America Project)
 AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees)
 Alliance for Democracy
 Center for Biological Diversity
 ClimateMama
 Code Pink
 Corporate Accountability International
 Daily Kos
 Daughters of Charity – USA
 Dominican Leadership Conference
 Dominican Sisters Conference
 Dominican Sisters of Oakford
 Economic Policy Institute Policy Center
 Food & Water Watch
 Food Empowerment Project
 Friends of the Earth
 In the Public Interest
 Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
 Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
 Lady Freethinker
 National Coalition of American Nuns
 National Council of Gray Panthers Networks
 Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
 People Demanding Action
 People’s Action Institute
 Pesticide Action Network North America
 Politics Reborn
 Public Citizen
 Radiation Truth
 RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Partnership)
 Sister of Charity Foundation
 The Stuart Center
 Union of Presentation Sisters
 U.S. Human Rights Network

Water Alliance
Water Commons
Wittenberg Center
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
Working Families Organization

Local, State, Regional and International Groups

1st Presbyterian Church, New York
350Brooklyn.org
350NYC
Advocates for Cherry Valley
Advocates for Springfield, NY
Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise
All Our Energy
Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
Assateague Coastal Trust
ATU Local 1300
Bay Ridge Democrats
BeanCounters Unlimited
Big Apple Coffee Party
BigWaterNY
Boston Cambridge Alliance
Brooklyn Bridge CSA
Campaign to Stop Killer Coke
Carmic Productions
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Central Park West CSA
Church of Notre Dame & West Manhattan Deanery
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, New York
Church Women United in New York State
Cities of Peace Detroit
Citizens for Water
Clean Water for North Carolina
Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline, New Jersey
Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline, New York
Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals
CodePink, New York
CodePink, Long Island
Cody Creek Farm
Collaborative Center for Justice
Colorado People's Alliance
Common Ground Community Trust

Community Free Democrats
Community Water Justice
Concerned Citizens of Otego, NY
Concerned Families of Westchester
Connect Future Labs, LLC
Corporate Campaign, Inc.
Council on Intelligent Energy & Conservation Policy (CIECP)
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Daughters of Wisdom (Catholic Congregation of Women Religious)
Detroit Green Party
Detroit Jews for Justice
Dominican Sisters of Amityville
Dominican Sisters of Sparkhill, NY
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, MI
Dominican Sisters of Adrian, MI
Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, NY
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
Dominican Sisters of the Roman Congregation (USA Province)
Dooda (NO) Desert Rock
Earth Guardians, NY
Eco-Poetry.org
Emmet County Democratic Committee
Empire State Consumer Project
Environmental Advocates of New York
Flatbush Food Co-op
FLOW (For Love of Water)
Fossil Free Rhode Island
Frack Free Four Corners
Frack Free Genesee
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Full Potential Consulting
Gas Free Seneca
Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative
Grassroots Action NY
Grassroots Environmental Education
Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit
Great Neck Breast Cancer Center
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Green Glen Cove
Green Party of Nassau County
Green Sanctuary Committee, CCNY, UU
Greenwich Conservation Advocates

Homecoming, Inc.
Hunger Action Network of NYS
HydroQuest
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition (IPSEC)
International Human Rights Clinic – Santa Clara Law
Ithaca-SHIP.org
Jersey Justice Action Network
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC
Justice Commission, Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen, South Dakota
Landscape Alternatives, LLC
LI Clean Air Water & Soil, Ltd.
Little Lakes Sustainability Network
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Lower Hudson Valley Progressive Action Network
Maine People’s Alliance
Maryland Conservation Council
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation
Michigan Coalition for Human Rights
Michigan Laborers Employers Cooperation & Education Trust
Michigan Nurses Association
Michigan Unitarian Universality Social Justice Network
Michigan United
Michigan Welfare Rights Organization
MichUHCAN
Mid-Hudson Sierra Club
Mountain Watershed Association
Move Forward Long Island
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club, Inc.
Newark Water Group
New Jersey Tenants Organization
New Mexico Story Power
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
New Queens Democrats
New York Communities for Change (NYCC)
New York Heartwoods
New York Progressive Action Network
New York State Nurses Association
NJ State Industrial Union Council
No Fracked Gas in Mass
NOFA-VT (Northeast Organic Farming Association, Vermont)
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
North Jersey Green Alliance

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)
Northern NJ Chapter, National Organization for Women
Northern NM Climate Activists
North Jersey Pipeline Walkers
NOW-NJ (National Organization for Women – New Jersey)
Nuns on the Bus Cincinnati
NY Buddhist Climate Action Network
NYC Friends of Clearwater
NYC H2O
NYC Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Our Revolution New Mexico
Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives
Park Slope Neighbors
Partnership for Global Justice
Passionists International
PAUSE – People of Albany United for Safe Energy
Pax Christi Metro New York
Peace & Justice Group, Parish of Guardian Angel – St. Columba
Peace Action Manhattan
Peace Action of Staten Island
People’s Organization for Progress / Lower Broadway Neighborhood Association
Peoples Water Board Coalition
Plymouth Friends of Clean Water
Program on Human Rights and the global Economy
Racine Dominican Sisters / Associates
Raritan Headwaters
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
Resolutions Unlimited
ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River)
Rochester Defense Against Fracking
Safe Energy Rights Group, Inc. (SEnRG)
San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.
San Rafael Dominican Sisters
Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens
Santa Cruz Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Savvyflix
School Sisters of Notre Dame AM Province
Securing Economic and Energy Democracy for SW New Mexico (SEED)
SEIU Local 721
Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Affiliate
Sfoglioni Pasta
Sinsinawa Dominicans
Sister of St. Dominic
Sisters of Charity

Sisters of Charity – Halifax
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sludge Stoppers Task Force
Social Justice Team, Detroit Metropolitan Association, United Church of Christ
South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
South Coast Neighbors United
South River Federation
Southwest Environmental Center
Springfield Dominican Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Schenectady, NY
Stepping Stones Resources
Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace, Justice & Environment
Strawtown Studio Environmental
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
Surfrider Foundation NYC Chapter
Sustainable Food Trade Association
Sustainable Solutions
Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue
Three Parks Independent Democrats
Torreon Community Alliance
Toxics Action Center Campaigns
Trade Justice New York Metro
Tri-State coalition for Responsible Investment
Voices for Earth Justice
Voices Rising
Voters Occupy
Walkabout Sculpture Show
Water You Fighting For?
WATERSPIRIT
We Are Seneca Lake
We the People of Detroit
WESPAC Foundation
West Branch Conservation Association
West Dryden Residents Against the Pipeline
West Ranch Conservation Association
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Westchester for Change
West Dominican Province
Women for Progress