

**NEWEA Talking Points - Washington, DC – March 21-22, 2017**  
**Top Priority – Provide Robust Federal Funding for Water Quality**

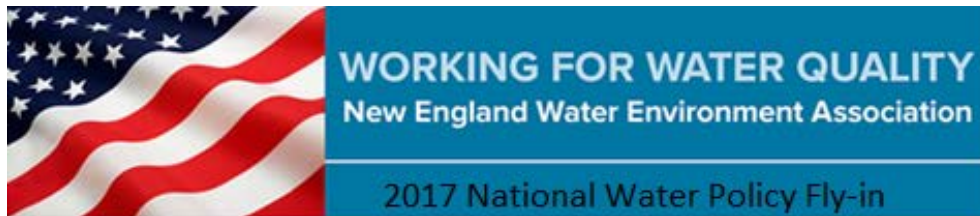
- America’s economic future depends on clean and safe water, yet our water, wastewater and stormwater systems are old and in critical need of repairs, upgrades and replacements. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives these systems only a “D” letter grade. These vital water systems need to be a prominent part of the major infrastructure investment program proposed by President Trump.
- More specifically, we call on Congress to support robust funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, as stated in the 2016 WRDA Bill
  - The Clean Water SRF should be funded at \$2.8 billion for FY2018.
  - The Drinking Water SRF should be funded at \$1.8 billion for FY2018.
  - The Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) should be funded at \$45 million for FY18.
  - Funding is needed for water and wastewater utilities facing substantial and growing expenses for hardening vulnerable facilities against the relentless impacts of rising sea level and more severe weather events.
- In response to the 2014 WRDA Bill, the EPA reviewed the state-by-state allocations of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and has recommended new allocations which would generally shift funding away from New England States toward other states. We request that our Congressional delegation be on the alert for potential CWSRF allocation changes and oppose these damaging changes.
- Tax-exempt municipal bonds play a vital role in financing clean water infrastructure and in maintaining rates at affordable levels. Municipal bonds fund over 80% of water infrastructure investments, and elimination of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds (as some have proposed) would severely impact the ability of water and wastewater utilities to fund their capital projects. We urge you to oppose changes to the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

**Benefits of Robust Funding for the State Revolving Fund Programs**

- Clean water is critical to our nation’s public health, our economy and our environmental quality. Federal funding is needed to support these basic needs.
- For every \$1 in SRF spending, of which \$0.23 is the federal contribution, the US Treasury receives \$0.93 in federal tax revenues.
- For every \$1 Million in SRF spending, \$2.95 million is created in the local economy and 16.5 jobs are created with an average salary of \$60,000/yr.

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**NEWEA Congressional Briefing  
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**New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA)**

NEWEA's mission is to promote education and collaboration while advancing knowledge, innovation, and sound public policy for the protection of the water environment and our quality of life.

**Government Affairs Committee**

NEWEA's Government Affairs Committee is charged with staying abreast of developments and proposed changes in state and federal water pollution related laws, guidelines, regulations and programs, and informing our members on these issues. We arrange an annual Congressional Briefing in Washington DC to bring together New England's Senators and Congressmen and our members to discuss water quality challenges and solutions. The NEWEA Government Affairs Committee also arranges for state legislative briefings in each of the New England states every year. We develop position statements expressing the Association's viewpoints on a range of water issues.

**Water Environment Federation**

NEWEA is a member association of the Water Environment Federation. WEF is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 36,000 individual members and 75 Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF's Government Affairs and Public Policy Program provides scientifically sound input on pending legislation and rulemaking through testimony to Congress and comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on important topics affecting the water sector.

**How Can NEWEA Help You?**

The NEWEA Government Affairs Committee reviews and comments on proposed changes to laws and regulations, and is available to provide expert testimony at appropriate federal and state legislative and regulatory meetings and hearings to provide the input from the front lines of the water quality industry. We would be pleased to serve as a resource for you and your aides on water-related issues that arise in Congress and our state legislatures.

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# ELEVATE WATER

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## NATIONAL PRIORITY

### AMERICA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE DEPENDS ON SAFE AND CLEAN WATER

America's future economic strength depends on investments made today in water infrastructure. These investments create jobs and support the economy. Consider these facts: Every \$1 invested in water and wastewater infrastructure increases long-term GDP by \$6.35; each job created in water and wastewater leads to 3.68 jobs in the national economy; over \$86 billion annually is spent on water-related sports activities. Studies also show that the US economy would stand to gain over \$200 billion in annual economic activity and 1.3 million jobs over a 10-year period by meeting its water infrastructure needs. But, without this investment, breakdowns in water supply, treatment and wastewater capacity are projected to cost manufacturers and other businesses over \$7.5 trillion in lost sales and \$4.1 trillion in lost GDP from 2011 to 2040.

### AMERICA'S QUALITY OF LIFE DEPENDS ON SAFE AND CLEAN WATER

Well-functioning water and wastewater systems, and the research efforts to support them, are critically important to America's quality of life. Past investments in drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure have left America with some of the best drinking water in the world, while providing our children with safe water for swimming and bathing, and our cities and towns with opportunities to revitalize waterfronts to support new businesses, residences, and recreational activities.

However, investment in water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and research has failed to keep pace with maintenance demands and emerging hydrological threats, putting our quality of life gains at risk.

### FEDERAL INVESTMENT ENSURES SAFE AND CLEAN WATER

Since enactment of the Clean Water Act in 1972 and the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974, Congress has supported a strong federal funding partnership with States and local ratepayers to pay for this critical infrastructure through:

- Investments in the Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Funds, which return over \$.93 to the Federal Treasury for every \$1 invested;
- Tax-exempt municipal bonds, which financed nearly \$38 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure in 2016; and,
- WIFIA, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, which has the potential to leverage over \$60 for every \$1 invested in major water and wastewater projects.

Yet EPA estimates that America's water and wastewater infrastructure requires more than \$650 billion worth of investment over the next 20 years just to maintain current levels of service, and independent estimates place this figure over \$1 trillion. While local ratepayers will shoulder much of this burden, all levels of government must be part of the solution.

## IT IS TIME TO RENEW THE LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL SAFE AND CLEAN WATER FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

### WE CALL ON CONGRESS TO ENSURE:

- ◆ **\$2.8 BILLION** for Clean Water State Revolving Fund for FY2018
- ◆ **\$1.8 BILLION** for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for FY2018
- ◆ **\$45 MILLION** for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act for FY2018 (WIFIA)
- ◆ **\$50 MILLION** for the Bureau of Reclamation's water reuse and recycling program (Title XVI)
- ◆ **\$5 MILLION** for National Priorities Research Funding
- ◆ **FULL TAX-EXEMPT STATUS** for interest earned on municipal bonds
- ◆ **REMOVAL OF THE CAP** on tax-exempt private activity bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure

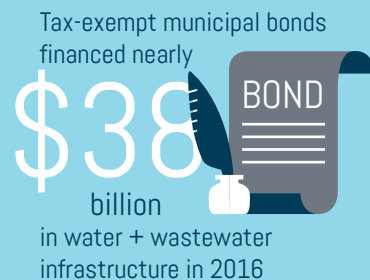
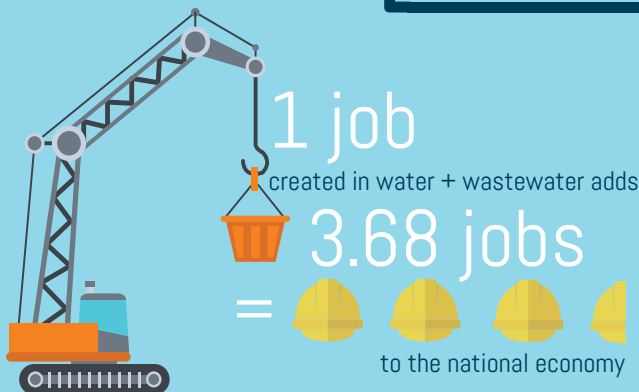
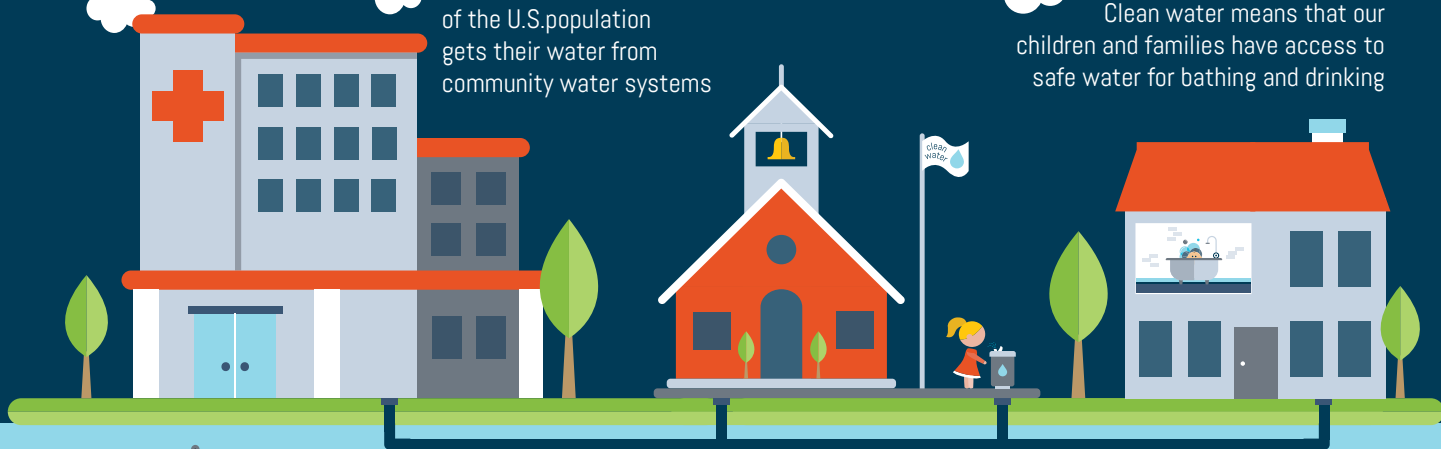
For more information on these statistics and to get involved, visit [www.waterweek.us/resources](http://www.waterweek.us/resources)

# LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ELEVATE WATER!

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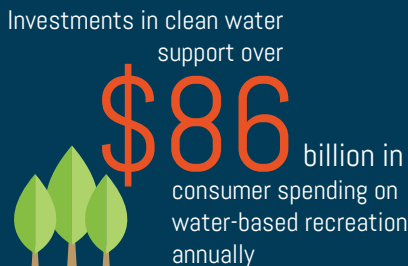
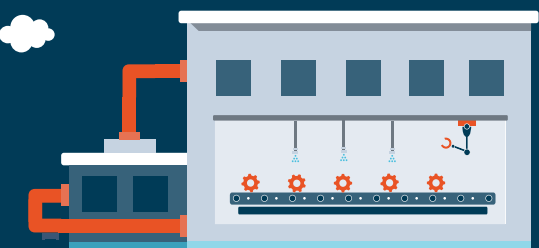
of the U.S. population gets their water from community water systems

Clean water means that our children and families have access to safe water for bathing and drinking



Safe and clean water means our industries can produce finished products with water free of contaminants

Safe and clean water is the lifeblood of healthy, vibrant communities and our nation's economy



Clean water means farmers can safely irrigate their crops



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT [WWW.WATERWEEK.US/RESOURCES](http://WWW.WATERWEEK.US/RESOURCES)