

Water Infrastructure Alliance

RE: Support for Water Infrastructure Funding

May 6, 2015

Dear Representative (or Senators),

As members of the Water Infrastructure Alliance, a diverse collaborative of stakeholders formed to advance the basic tenets of the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission (WIFC) report, we write relative to the importance of continuing the efforts to address our Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs. While Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 was a good start, there is more work to be done.

As you know, the Massachusetts Water Infrastructure Finance Commission found that the Commonwealth and its municipalities have a \$21 billion funding gap in meeting their drinking and wastewater infrastructure needs. This not only presents significant public health and environmental concerns, but directly impacts the Commonwealth's ability to create meaningful economic development opportunities. Recognizing the need to assist municipalities and regional water authorities in addressing this problem, Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 gave greater flexibility to the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, required the development of best management practices, encouraged the use of environmentally friendly principles, and promoted the development of water technology innovation, among other initiatives.

Despite this important first step, the Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs still require funding. Whether increasing the appropriation to the Commonwealth's contract assistance line-item (1599-0093), supporting water technology innovation or otherwise dedicating new revenue to meet our \$21 billion funding gap, we must continue our forward progress. If this past winter has shown us anything, it is that maintaining our infrastructure is of critical importance. While cognizant of the Commonwealth's fiscal realities, it is important to recognize that investing in our water infrastructure not only protects our environment and public health, but directly contributes to increased revenue for the Commonwealth through direct and indirect job creation.

Our diverse membership looks forward to working with you this session to ensure that steps are being taken to meet our Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs.

We thank you for your consideration and continued thoughtful leadership.

Sincerely yours,

Organizations working together as the Water Infrastructure Alliance

LIST Below reflects organizations which signed onto a prior letter; it is included here for reference only

**Abbie Goodman, Executive Director
American Council of Engineering
Companies of Massachusetts**

**Jennifer Pederson, Executive Director
Massachusetts Water Works Association**

**Paul Matthews, Executive Director
Jessica Strunkin, Deputy Director
495/MetroWest Partnership**

**Tony Puntin, Executive Director, Boston
Society of Civil Engineers Section/ASCE**

**Wendy K. Northcross, CEO
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce**

**Becky Smith, Campaigns Director
Clean Water Action**

**Daniel K. Moon, President & Executive
Director, Environmental Business
Council of New England**

**Nancy Goodman, Vice President for
Policy, Environmental League of
Massachusetts**

**Sean Ewald, President, Massachusetts
Association of Land Surveyors and Civil
Engineers**

**Philip D. Guerin, President,
Massachusetts Coalition for Water
Resources Stewardship**

Massachusetts Municipal Association

**Julia Blatt, Executive Director
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance**

**Ray Willis, President, Massachusetts
Water Pollution Control Association**

**Massachusetts Water Resources
Authority**

**Massachusetts Water Resources
Authority Advisory Board**

**Marc Draisen, Executive Director
Metropolitan Area Planning Council**

**Tim Brennan
Pioneer Valley Planning Authority**

**Steve Long, Director of Government
Relations, The Nature Conservancy**

**Mary Barry, Executive Director, New
England Water Environment Association**

**Ray Raposa, Executive Director, New
England Water Works Association**

**Utility Contractors Association of New
England**

**Stephen Greene, Chairman
Wastewater Advisory Committee to the
MWRA**

Water Infrastructure Alliance

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