



CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF)

Background

Before the Clean Water Act (CWA) became law in 1972, many of our nation's waters were so polluted and contaminated that they were unusable. Many rivers and lakes were unsuitable for recreational purposes, such as swimming and boating, while other bodies of water could no longer be used for drinking water, even after treatment. After the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught on fire in 1969, the modern environmental movement was born, and Congress was forced to take action.

Congress has amended the CWA several times since its implementation, including the 1987 amendment creating the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The CWSRF provides funding to states to assist localities in the construction and maintenance of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Through CWSRF, states are able to offer communities below-market loans to design, plan, build, or update water infrastructure. Pollution levels in our water sources have decreased due to programs such as CWSRF, which made it possible to maintain and update our aging water infrastructure. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency prioritizes the use of green infrastructure in CWSRF to complete more sustainable, resilient, and less-expensive projects. Unfortunately, CWSRF has not been reauthorized in nearly 30 years, leaving the program vulnerable.

Solution

To address the reauthorization and to update this crucial program, Representatives Peter DeFazio (OR), Grace Napolitano (CA), Don Young (AK), and John Katko (NY) introduced H.R. 1497, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019, on March 5, 2019.

This legislation authorizes CWSRF for five years and includes an increase in allowable funding of up to \$4 billion per year. This legislation would create a \$600 million pilot program to address wet weather discharge through the promotion of integrated water resources management, with an emphasis on resilience and sustainability. It also authorizes an additional \$900 million for community grants to maintain and update their combined stormwater and wastewater management infrastructure.

Request

The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) believes that Congress must act to reauthorize this vital program that keeps our drinking water sources clean and usable. We ask that you support H.R. 1497, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act, and work to introduce companion language in the U.S. Senate.