



February 22, 2017

The Honorable Matt Gaetz  
United States House of Representatives  
507 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gaetz:

On behalf of the members of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), I urge you to withdraw consideration of H.R. 861, legislation to terminate the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since its establishment in 1970, the EPA has played an essential role in ensuring clean air and safe water supplies for our nation.

ASLA is opposed to your proposal to terminate the EPA, which would severely impede many communities from achieving their water quality goals. Our nation's drinking water and wastewater systems are deteriorating and are costing municipalities and ratepayers billions of dollars in maintenance and repairs. Many communities are looking to employ less costly green infrastructure solutions to address stormwater runoff—the major contributor to water pollution and unsafe drinking water supplies. Landscape architects, working with communities nationwide, access EPA grants, research, and other technical assistance to implement green infrastructure projects that create resiliency and use nature-based solutions in stormwater absorption, reducing burdens on storm drain systems. EPA grants, partnerships, and technical resources have a proven track record of successfully helping communities address water management systems, while also protecting human health and safety.

#### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund**

As a federal–state partnership, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides communities a permanent, independent source of low-cost financing for a wide range of water infrastructure projects. The program provides federal and state funding to help communities design, plan, and construct critical municipal wastewater facilities; control nonpoint source pollution; implement an array of green infrastructure projects; and build decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

#### **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

Established in 1996, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) also provides financial assistance to help water systems and local jurisdictions achieve the health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act, landmark legislation that protects public drinking water supplies throughout the nation. DWSRF also provides vital resources to communities to improve drinking water treatment; fixes and replaces corroded and

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contaminated water distribution pipes; and advances other infrastructure projects, including green infrastructure projects, needed to protect public health.

**Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance**

The EPA is also a leader in generating research and technical assistance on the design and implementation of green infrastructure projects. EPA's green infrastructure and low-impact development programs and policies such as the Green Infrastructure Collaborative, Soak Up the Rain, Campus Rainworks, G3, and others provide a variety of essential tools—from guidance documents, best practices, and modeling tools to training webinars and policy and legal guidance—that provide fundamental assistance to communities and individuals nationwide.

If enacted, H.R. 861 would halt these critical programs and leave state and local jurisdictions without vital programming, guidance, and technical assistance needed to address healthy water supplies. This legislation would also devastate many other public health and environmental protections communities have relied on for nearly 47 years.

Again, I respectfully urge you to withdraw consideration of H.R. 861 and urge you to work with your congressional colleagues to improve the programs and resources administered by the EPA for the benefit of current and future generations. If you or your staff have questions about ASLA, or how landscape architects work with communities to solve water infrastructure needs, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mark Cason, Manager of Government Affairs, at [mcason@asla.org](mailto:mcason@asla.org) or 202-216-2370.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Somerville, Hon. ASLA  
Executive Vice President/CEO