

April 19, 2021

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The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

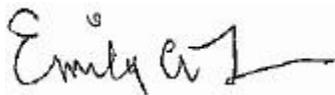
The American Society of Civil Engineers strongly supports S. 914, the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 and urges swift passage of this legislation that makes vital investments in our nation's water infrastructure. ASCE is encouraged by this bipartisan bill, which not only authorizes more than \$35 billion for critical projects, but prioritizes investments that focus on upgrading aging infrastructure, addressing the threat of climate change, investing in new technologies, and providing assistance for disadvantaged communities.

ASCE's [2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#) rated the overall condition of the nation's infrastructure a cumulative grade of "C-" across 17 categories. Unfortunately, many of the nation's water systems remain in the "D" range with wastewater receiving a "D+," stormwater receiving a "D," and drinking water receiving a "C-."

Furthermore, despite increased efficiency methods and sustainable practices, there is a growing gap between the capital needed to maintain drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and the actual investments made. To estimate this gap and quantify the failure to invest in our water infrastructure, last year ASCE, in conjunction with the Value of Water, released *The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure: How Failure to Act would Affect the U.S. Economic Recovery*. This economic study analyzed the impact of current water infrastructure investment trends on America's GDP, jobs, personal income, and businesses and found that the U.S. had an investment gap of \$81 billion in 2019 alone. This underinvestment, will cause our infrastructure to further degrade, resulting in a loss of 636,000 jobs annually and \$2.9 trillion in GDP by 2039.

We thank the Senate for focusing on our nation's water infrastructure and urge the passage of S. 914. The Drinking Water and Wastewater Investment Act is critical if we are to improve our nation's aging water systems and ensure that they continue to protect public health, welfare, and safety.

Sincerely,



Emily Feenstra
Managing Director, Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives
American Society of Civil Engineers