

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1429

Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. SABLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Drinking Water Infra-
5 structure for Job Creation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Investments in infrastructure create jobs
4 while fulfilling critical needs in communities
5 throughout the United States.

6 (2) According to the Brookings Institution,
7 nearly 14.5 million workers—11 percent of the U.S.
8 workforce—were employed in infrastructure jobs in
9 2013.

10 (3) According to data from the Brookings Insti-
11 tution, infrastructure occupations often provide more
12 competitive and equitable wages in comparison to all
13 jobs nationally, consistently paying up to 30 percent
14 more to low-income workers.

15 (4) The American Society of Civil Engineers
16 gave the infrastructure of the United States an over-
17 all grade of “D+” in 2017 and estimated that the
18 United States will need to invest \$4.59 trillion by
19 2025 in order to improve the condition of the Na-
20 tion’s infrastructure and bring it to a state of good
21 repair.

22 (5) The American Society of Civil Engineers as-
23 signed a “D” grade to the Nation’s drinking water
24 infrastructure and a “D+” grade to the Nation’s
25 wastewater infrastructure and estimated that the

1 United States will need to invest \$150 billion by
2 2025 to bring them to a state of good repair.

3 (6) According to the American Society of Civil
4 Engineers, there are an estimated 240,000 water
5 main breaks per year in the United States, wasting
6 over two trillion gallons of treated drinking water.

7 (7) In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection
8 Agency (EPA) reported that although exposure to
9 lead can cause serious health problems, including
10 damage to the brain and nervous system in children
11 and kidney problems and high blood pressure in
12 adults, an estimated 6.5 to 10 million homes nation-
13 wide receive drinking water through lead service
14 lines.

15 (8) Congress created the Drinking Water State
16 Revolving Funds in 1996 to help eligible public
17 water systems finance infrastructure projects in
18 order to comply with Federal drinking water regula-
19 tions and meet the health objectives of the Safe
20 Drinking Water Act.

21 (9) The EPA is required periodically to conduct
22 a survey of the capital improvement needs of eligible
23 public water systems and distribute funding appro-
24 priated for the Drinking Water State Revolving

1 Funds among the States based on the results of the
2 most recent survey.

3 (10) In March of 2018, the EPA issued the
4 2015 Drinking Water Needs Survey and Assess-
5 ment, which is the most recent survey of the capital
6 improvement needs of eligible public water systems
7 and which estimated that \$472.6 billion in improve-
8 ments are needed for the Nation's drinking water in-
9 frastructure over 20 years in order to ensure the
10 safety of drinking water.

11 (11) In fiscal year 2018, Congress appropriated
12 \$1.163 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolv-
13 ing Funds to enable States to provide grants and fi-
14 nancing assistance to eligible public water systems in
15 order to improve drinking water infrastructure in
16 communities throughout the United States.

17 (12) Past appropriations for the Drinking
18 Water State Revolving Funds are not sufficient to
19 address the tremendous need for investments in
20 drinking water infrastructure in communities
21 throughout the United States.

22 (13) Appropriating \$7.5 billion in fiscal year
23 2019 for the Drinking Water State Revolving
24 Funds, and allowing the funds to remain available
25 for 6 years, will enable States to begin immediately

1 to expand investments in drinking water infrastruc-
2 ture in communities throughout the United States.

3 (14) Restricting appropriations for the Drink-
4 ing Water State Revolving Funds through the use of
5 arbitrary budget caps or sequestration undermines
6 economic recovery and job creation efforts; disrupts
7 planning by States, local communities, and eligible
8 public water systems; and leaves critical infrastruc-
9 ture needs unmet.

10 (15) Emergency supplemental appropriations
11 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, pro-
12 vided in addition to other appropriations and not
13 subject to sequestration, will improve drinking water
14 infrastructure and create jobs throughout the United
15 States without reducing funding for other domestic
16 priorities.

17 (16) An emergency supplemental appropriation
18 of \$7.5 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolv-
19 ing Funds to be made available in fiscal year 2019,
20 and to remain available for 6 years, will allow States
21 to begin immediately to distribute funds to eligible
22 public water systems and allow local communities
23 and eligible public water systems to develop and im-
24 plement plans to improve drinking water infrastruc-

1 **SEC. 4. EXEMPTION FROM SEQUESTRATION.**

2 The appropriation in section 3 shall be exempt from
3 sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency
4 Deficit Control Act of 1985.

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