

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3859

Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. MOORE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. LEE, Mr. NOLAN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER) 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 2017 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Investments in infrastructure create jobs
9 while fulfilling critical needs in communities
10 throughout the United States.

11 (2) According to the Brookings Institution,
12 nearly 14.5 million workers—11 percent of the U.S.
13 workforce—were employed in infrastructure jobs in
14 2013.

15 (3) According to data from the Brookings Insti-
16 tution, infrastructure occupations often provide more
17 competitive and equitable wages in comparison to all
18 jobs nationally, consistently paying up to 30 percent
19 more to low-income workers over the past decade.

20 (4) The American Society of Civil Engineers
21 gave the infrastructure of the United States an over-
22 all grade of “D+” in 2017 and estimated that the
23 United States will need to invest \$4.59 trillion by
24 2025 in order to improve the condition of the Na-

1 tion’s infrastructure and bring it to a state of good
2 repair.

3 (5) The American Society of Civil Engineers as-
4 signed a “D” grade to the Nation’s drinking water
5 infrastructure and a “D+” grade to the Nation’s
6 wastewater infrastructure and estimated that the
7 United States will need to invest \$150 billion by
8 2025 to bring them to a state of good repair.

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

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

21 (8) Congress created the Drinking Water State
22 Revolving Funds in 1996 to help eligible public
23 water systems finance infrastructure projects in
24 order to comply with Federal drinking water regula-

1 tions and meet the health objectives of the Safe
2 Drinking Water Act.

3 (9) The EPA is required periodically to conduct
4 a survey of the capital improvement needs of eligible
5 public water systems and distribute funding appro-
6 priated for the Drinking Water State Revolving
7 Funds among the States based on the results of the
8 most recent survey.

9 (10) In 2013, the EPA completed the most re-
10 cent survey of the capital improvement needs of eli-
11 gible public water systems and estimated that \$384
12 billion in improvements are needed for the Nation's
13 drinking water infrastructure over 20 years in order
14 to ensure the safety of drinking water.

15 (11) The American Recovery and Reinvestment
16 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) included \$2 billion
17 in emergency supplemental appropriations for the
18 Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to enable
19 States to provide grants and financing assistance to
20 eligible public water systems in order to improve
21 drinking water infrastructure in communities
22 throughout the United States.

23 (12) Past appropriations for the Drinking
24 Water State Revolving Funds are not sufficient to
25 address the tremendous need for investments in

1 drinking water infrastructure in communities
2 throughout the United States.

3 (13) Appropriating \$7.5 billion in fiscal year
4 2017 for the Drinking Water State Revolving
5 Funds, and allowing the funds to remain available
6 for 6 years, will enable States to begin immediately
7 to expand investments in drinking water infrastruc-
8 ture in communities throughout the United States.

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

16 (15) Emergency supplemental appropriations
17 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, pro-
18 vided in addition to other appropriations and not
19 subject to sequestration, will improve drinking water
20 infrastructure and create jobs throughout the United
21 States without reducing funding for other domestic
22 priorities.

23 (16) An emergency supplemental appropriation
24 of \$7.5 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolv-
25 ing Funds to be made available in fiscal year 2017,

1 and to remain available for 6 years, will allow States
2 to begin immediately to distribute funds to eligible
3 public water systems and allow local communities
4 and eligible public water systems to develop and im-
5 plement plans to improve drinking water infrastruc-
6 ture, thus ensuring an efficient use of funds and
7 timely job creation.

8 **SEC. 3. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DRINK-**
9 **ING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUNDS.**

10 The following sums are appropriated, out of any
11 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fis-
12 cal year 2017:

13 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
14 STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

15 For an additional amount for capitalization grants
16 under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act in ac-
17 cordance with the provisions under this heading in title
18 VII of division A of Public Law 111–5, \$7,500,000,000,
19 to remain available through September 30, 2022: *Pro-*
20 *vided*, That the amount under this heading is designated
21 by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant
22 to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and
23 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such
24 amount shall be available only if the President subse-

1 quently so designates such amount and transmits such
2 designation to the Congress.

3 **SEC. 4. EXEMPTION FROM SEQUESTRATION.**

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

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