

August 10th 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

The undersigned members of the Clean Water for All Coalition and allied water advocates support using budget reconciliation to provide additional funding for critical, long overdue water infrastructure investments in communities around the country. We ask for your support in ensuring that the investments made by Congress this year in water infrastructure and in disinvested communities struggling with water access and pollution crises are robust enough to finally address these issues. **Specifically, between the bipartisan infrastructure deal and reconciliation, we urge you to invest a total of at least \$150 billion for drinking water infrastructure (including \$45 billion to fully replace all lead service lines), \$110 billion for clean water infrastructure, and \$90 billion for low-income water assistance and water bill arrears relief over the next ten years.** This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make whole communities who have borne the brunt of systemic disinvestment.

All people in America should have access to water infrastructure systems that provide safe, clean, and affordable water – systems that protect people’s health, sustain thriving ecosystems, withstand the effects of climate change, and support a robust and diverse workforce. However, far too many communities — particularly Black, Brown, Indigenous, low-income, and rural — have aging and failing infrastructure, polluted water supplies, and unreliable or unaffordable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Investment is urgently needed: the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that we need to invest at least \$470 billion in our drinking water infrastructure and \$270 billion in our clean water infrastructure over the next 20 years just to meet basic health and environmental standards.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure bill reauthorized important programs and appropriated some funds which are both important first steps toward dealing with issues like lead in water, emerging contaminants, combined sewer overflows, and failing decentralized wastewater systems. However, the investments from that package do not rise to the scale of the problems our communities face. Those funds are insufficient to prevent another generation of children from growing up with lead poisoning, help the growing number of older wastewater treatment plants that have exceeded their design capacity, meaningfully slow the vast

and increasing quantities of runoff pollution generated by sprawling development and climate change, or ensure low-income households can afford the cost of essential water and sewer services.

We urge you, in your capacity as Congressional leaders, when weighing how to best allocate resources in any reconciliation legislation, to ensure our economy and our ecosystems can work for everyone, to invest significantly in water infrastructure and make a historic commitment to our water and our communities. We must build on the investments of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal to support communities across the country, both rural and urban, and especially low income communities of color.

Sincerely,

Alabama Rivers Alliance	Greenville Neighborhood Alliance
American Rivers	Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy
Anthropocene Alliance	Healthy Gulf
Appalachian Citizens' Law Center (ACLC)	Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
Cahaba River Society	Illinois Environmental Council
Camden Community Partnership	Illinois Environmental Council
Canco Park Conservancy	League of Conservation Voters
Clean Water Action	Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Confluence West	MI/Welfare Rights Organization
Conservation Minnesota	National Coalition for Legislation on Affordable
Dogwood Alliance	GreenLatinos
Earth Action, Inc.	Greenville Neighborhood Alliance Inc.
Earthjustice	Water
Endangered Habitats League	National Parks Conservation Association
Environmental Advocacy New York	Natural Resources Defense Council NC
Farmworker Justice	League of Conservation Voters New York
Food & Water Action	League of Conservation Voters NJ Clean
Freshwater Future	Water
	Park Watershed

Passaic River Coalition	Surfrider Foundation
Pennsylvania Council of Churches	The Alliance for the Great Lakes
People's Water Board Coalition	The Center for Water Security and Cooperation The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance	
Raritan Baykeeper, Inc (dba NY/NJ Baykeeper)	Vermont Natural resources Council
River Network	Vets United to Stop the Wall
Riverview Neighborhood Association	Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition	Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters
Sierra Club	WaterNow Alliance
Southern Environmental Law Center	

Clean Water for All is a broad coalition of organizations who, working together with our partners, aim to elevate the importance of national safe and affordable clean water policies that support healthy communities, healthy ecosystems, cultural resources, and wildlife.

CC:

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth, Chair, Senate EPW Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
The Honorable John Yarmouth, Chair, House Budget Committee
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee