



# Invest in Our Nation's Water Infrastructure

**W**ater infrastructure plays an important role in public health, maintaining a good quality of life for Americans, and for business. Without sustainable, reliable supplies of water, attracting new businesses to communities across America becomes more challenging.

Nationwide, a large portion of our water infrastructure—including drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems, pipes, locks, and dams—is approaching or has already reached the end of its useful life. In fact:

- Most of our buried drinking water infrastructure was built 75–100 years ago or more.
- As much as 25–30% of the treated water that goes into distribution systems leaks into the ground.
- The American Society of Civil Engineers gave our nation's drinking water systems, dams, and levees a “D” grade in its 2017 report card on the nation's infrastructure.
- Over the next 20 years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that over \$470 billion in drinking water infrastructure investment will be needed as aging pipes and treatment and storage facilities require upgrades and replacement.

U.S. metalcasters produce critical components that are used in the distribution, transmission, and maintenance of our water infrastructure systems throughout the United States. Examples of the types of castings include pipes, pumps, valves, water meters, fire hydrants, manhole covers, drainage grates and other key components. EPA maintains several loan and grant programs that provide key funding sources to help states and communities meet our critical and costly water challenges. Continued congressional support is needed to ensure communities have the funding and resources to make investments to support essential water infrastructure upgrades.

## MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

The American Foundry Society (AFS) urges lawmakers to:

### Fully Support Authorized Funding for the Following Water Programs in the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Measure:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund at \$1.81 billion. Since 1988, Congress has provided \$45 billion in federal capitalization grants, which have generated more than \$133 billion in clean water infrastructure projects.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund at the fully authorized level of \$1.3 billion. These capitalization grants have generated more than \$38 billion in total funding.
- Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at authorized level of \$50 million in FY2020 — an amount that could be leveraged into more than \$5 billion in loans for water and wastewater projects.
- Replacing Lead Service Lines at \$20 million for a program to help communities and low-income households.
- Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability program at \$4 million for the program that would help drinking water systems adapt their infrastructure.

### Encourage the Use of Resilient Materials in Water Infrastructure Construction:

Recent disasters have demonstrated the risks associated with using flammable and weak materials. Products produced by metalcasters are proven and resilient, nonflammable and durable, and can withstand earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, wind and ice storms.

**For further information, contact:  
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