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October 28, 2008

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

The Water Environment Federation is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization with more than 34,000 individual members and 81 affiliated Member Associations representing an additional 50,000 water quality professionals throughout the world. WEF and its member associations proudly work to achieve our mission of preserving and enhancing the global water environment.

On behalf of the Water Environment Federation, I am writing to strongly encourage you to move forward as quickly as possible with an economic stimulus package for our nation that includes funding for critical and sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure improvement projects.

We face an important opportunity to revive our nation's fragile economy. An infusion of capital into sustainable projects that provide jobs and economic growth while protecting public health and environmental quality is needed immediately. The recent economic downturn has made it extremely difficult for local governments across the country to fund badly-needed infrastructure projects such as those that provide wastewater treatment. Local governments with limited resources are faced with tremendous needs to upgrade, repair, or replace thousands of miles of sewer pipes, as well collection systems, treatment plants, and pump stations. The Government Accountability Office and the Water Infrastructure Network have estimated the water and wastewater infrastructure needs of the nation at between \$300 billion and \$500 billion over the next twenty years. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, which represents the nation's publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies, has identified nearly \$3 billion in ready-to-go infrastructure projects that could be funded immediately.

Investment in our nation's aging wastewater infrastructure not only protects public health and the environment, but each \$1 billion invested in such projects

generates more than 47,000 jobs. We were pleased that the House recently approved economic stimulus legislation (H.R. 7110) that provides \$6.5 billion for wastewater infrastructure projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund and we urge this level of funding be considered in a new stimulus package.

We commend your efforts to act quickly and decisively on plans to address critical and sustainable infrastructure needs of our nation and revive our economy. Please contact us if we may be of assistance to you as you continue to address this issue. We would be pleased to meet with you or members of your staff to discuss infrastructure needs for wastewater in greater detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Rebecca F. West  
President  
Water Environment Federation

cc: Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate  
Honorable James Inhofe, Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate  
Honorable James L. Oberstar, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable John Mica, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives  
William Bertera, Executive Director, Water Environment Federation