February 10, 2020

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Temporary President and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
Legislative Office Building, Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie, Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Clean Water Infrastructure Act Funding in the SFY2020-21 Budget

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

As local-elected officials representing communities across New York State, we write to urge that you include a new appropriation of at least $1 billion for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act (CWIA) in the SFY2020-21 budget. This critical funding source, which supports the infrastructure responsible for bringing clean drinking water to the homes in our communities and keeping waterways clean, has been incredibly successful, but needs still dwarf available funding.

We thank you for your commitment to double the existing Clean Water Infrastructure Act funding by an additional $2.5 billion over the next 5 years. In 2008, the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health released reports indicating a 20-year need of nearly $80 billion for both drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Since these reports were issued, needs have grown. To ensure our communities can fight emerging contaminants, repair and replace old water infrastructure, replace lead pipes, protect source water, and more, funding must continue to increase beyond this commitment.

Few issues are as important to our health, economy, and environment, as safe, reliable clean water. In the 21st century, ensuring safe drinking and recreational waters means having adequate infrastructure. But much of New York’s water infrastructure has aged well beyond its useful lifespan, leading to billions of gallons of sewage overflows and thousands of water main breaks annually. This issue has only been compounded by climate change and unregulated chemicals contaminating drinking water supplies.

In recent years, New York has begun to reverse decades of inadequate investment. Resources first made available in the SFY2015-16 budget and the creation of the CWIA has made an enormous difference for our communities that may not have otherwise had the means to repair and replace degrading water infrastructure.

According to a recent analysis of the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA), every county that applied for funding has been awarded at least once, each year applications increased by 60%, and each year the number
of grants being awarded has increased. Four times the number of projects were awarded funding in 2017 as compared to 2015.¹

In addition to WIIA, when the other programs within the CWIA are taken into account, **this fund has benefited every county in New York State.**

The WIIA, which receives $1 billion out of the Clean Water Infrastructure Act, has been oversubscribed since its initial creation. According to an analysis of the first three years of WIIA, only half of the eligible projects that applied for grant funding were awarded – 50/50 chances of funding are not the odds New Yorkers need for water infrastructure funding. Out of the 22,000 miles of sewer pipes statewide, nearly a third are beyond their projected 60-year lifespans, and a quarter of over 600 sewage treatment plants are beyond their projected useful life of 30 years.²

Additionally, investment in water infrastructure is a necessary component of climate resiliency. Based on modeling, temperatures in New York will be up 3 degrees and precipitation will increase by 8% compared to the 1970-2000 period by the 2020s. Current levels of precipitation and snow melt and extreme temperature fluctuations are causing water main and sewer line breaks and massive sewage overflows – this will only grow worse without proper investment.

These funds are also critical to maintain and improve the affordability of water and sewer service for rate payers across the state who would otherwise bear the full costs of these necessary upgrades—or would experience diminished access to or quality of service due to their inability to pay.

**In the face of threats from the federal government, it is more important than ever that New York make bold investments in water infrastructure.** With rollbacks to essential environmental protections, like the Clean Water Act, and New York suffering from harmful algal blooms, chemical contamination, frequent sewage overflows and watermain breaks, and stress from climate change, continued leadership on funding is urgent.

The Clean Water Infrastructure Act has been a historic program – we strongly support increased funding by at least the promised $2.5 billion in SFY2019-20. Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and we look forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Miller  
County Legislator  
Albany

Teddy Cuddy  
Council Member  
Auburn

Daniel Coffey  
Town Councilman  
Bethlehem

David VanLuven  
Town Supervisor  
Bethlehem

Robert E. Hall  
Minority Legislator  
Clinton

Andy Simmons  
Village Trustee  
Croton on Hudson

¹ Hayes, Robert, “Untapped Potential: Water Infrastructure Spending in New York,” Environmental Advocates of New York, February 2019,  

² Nearing, Brian, “Needs outweigh cash in State’s infrastructure fund,” Times Union, February 7, 2019,  
Ann Gallelli  
Village Trustee  
**Croton on Hudson**

Brian Pugh  
Mayor  
**Croton on Hudson**

Franco Carucci  
Councilman  
**Gardiner**

Marybeth Majestic  
Town Supervisor  
**Gardiner**

Ron Belmont  
Mayor  
**Harrison**

Chad A. Lupinacci  
Mayor  
**Huntington**

Cynthia Brock  
City Council Member  
**Ithaca**

Svante L. Myrick  
Mayor  
**Ithaca**

Steven T. Noble  
Mayor  
**Kingston**

Joe Whetmore  
Town Board Member  
**Lansing**

Frederick Pizzuto  
Supervisor  
**Lloyd**

Lisa A. Copeland  
City Council President  
**Mount Vernon**

Alex Baer  
Council Member  
**New Paltz**

Alexandria Wojcik  
Trustee  
**New Paltz**

Bill Murray  
Trustee  
**New Paltz**

Daniel Torres  
Deputy Supervisor  
**New Paltz**

David Brownstein  
Council Member  
**New Paltz**

Julie Seyfert-Lewis  
Council Member  
**New Paltz**

Kathleen Tobin  
Deputy Mayor  
**New Paltz**

Michelle Zipp  
Trustee  
**New Paltz**

Neil Bettez  
Supervisor  
**New Paltz**

Tim Rogers  
Mayor  
**New Paltz**

Elizabeth Fried  
City Council Member  
**New Rochelle**

Noam Bramson  
Mayor  
**New Rochelle**

Sara Kaye  
Council Member  
**New Rochelle**

Gary Herzig  
Mayor  
**Oneonta**
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Albert Bruno</td>
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<td>David Donaldson</td>
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Manna Jo Greene  
Legislator  
**Ulster County**

Peter Criswell  
Legislator  
**Ulster County**

Catherine Parker  
County Legislator  
**Westchester**

Colin Smith  
County Legislator  
**Westchester**

Nancy Barr  
County Legislator  
**Westchester**

Ruth Walter  
County Legislator  
**Westchester**

Thomas Roach  
Mayor  
**White Plains**

Bill McKenna  
Supervisor  
**Woodstock**

cc: Honorable John Flanagan, Minority Leader  
Honorable William Barclay, Minority Leader  
Honorable Todd Kaminsky, Chair, Senate Environmental Conservation Committee  
Honorable Steven Englebright, Chair, Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee
Re: Clean Water Infrastructure Act Funding in the SFY2020-21 Budget; additional signatures

March 18, 2020

Andre Rainey
Mayor
Peekskill

Aney Paul
County Legislator
Rockland County

Philip Soskin
County Legislator
Rockland County

Itamar Yeger
County Legislator
Rockland County

Harriet Cornell
County Legislator
Rockland County

Alden Wolfe
County Legislator
Rockland County

Jay Hood
County Legislator
Rockland County

Michael Grant
County Legislator
Rockland County

Toney Earl
County Legislator
Rockland County

Aron Wieder
County Legislator
Rockland County

Daniel P. Schaefer
Supervisor
Babylon

Willard Streiff
Supervisor
Floyd

Mary Kuhn
County Legislator
Onondaga County

Keith Batman
County Legislator
Cayuga County

Jason Shaw
County Legislator
Broome County

Anna Kelles
County Legislator
Tompkins County

Robin DeLoria
Supervisor
Newcomb

Richard F. Helmich
County Legislator
Cattaraugus County

Clayton J Barber
Supervisor
Chesterfield

George McGonigal
City Council Member
Ithaca
Joseph Mutagh
City Council Member
Ithaca

Donna Fleming
City Council Member
Ithaca

Graham Kerslick
City Council Member
Ithaca

Laura Lewis
City Council Member
Ithaca

Ducson Nguyen
City Council Member
Ithaca

Robert Gearhart
City Council Member
Ithaca

Stephen Smith
City Council Member
Ithaca

Deborah Mohlenhoff
City Council Member
Ithaca

Charlie E. Ripley
County Legislator
Cayuga County

Ken Hughes
Supervisor
Essex

John M. Becker
Supervisor
Sullivan

Angie Carpenter
Supervisor
Islip

Edward Wehrheim
Supervisor
Smithtown

Edward Romaine
Supervisor
Brookhaven

Yvette Augiar
Supervisor
Riverhead

Jay Schneiderman
Supervisor
South Hampton

Scott Russell
Supervisor
Southold

Peter Van Scyoc
Supervisor
East Hampton

Gerry Siller
Supervisor
Shelter Island

Tom Scozzafava
Supervisor
Moriah

Bob Hollum
County Legislator
Herkimer County

Clayton Barber
Supervisor
Chesterfield
Keith Powers  
City Council Member  
New York City

Jennifer Borrello  
County Executive  
Chautauqua County

Nicola Armacost  
Mayor  
Hastings-on-Hudson

Lisa Crosby  
Community Board  
Staten Island