



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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March 17, 2016

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bi-partisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories, and commonwealths, we would like to commend you for introducing a suite of legislation that addresses the country's increasing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs. NCSL firmly believes that water resources policy can and must be developed at the state level, with the federal government providing technical, research and financial assistance to the states at their request.

In particular, we thank you for bringing attention to both the Drinking Water (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). NCSL believes these programs are essential to provide states with a low-cost source of financing for their water and wastewater infrastructure needs. As you examine the needs of the State Revolving Funds (SRF) NCSL urges you to allow states to extend the life of SRF loans as necessary to accommodate low-income communities and use at least 6-8 percent of SRF funds for administrative costs. We also encourage you to allow states to use the interest earnings from the SRF monies for grant assistance to low-income communities.

NCSL also believes a special consideration for financial assistance should be given to those states that have communities and water systems that have limited resources to deal with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

We encourage you to reference our attached [Water Policy Directive](#) for further suggestions on how to improve water infrastructure issues for the states.

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NCSL would be pleased to work with you to bring needed attention to these state revolving funds, and appreciates your advocacy on behalf of these programs. Please contact NCSL staff Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) or Melanie Condon (Melanie.condon@ncsl.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Delegate Sally Jameson
Maryland House of Delegates
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee



Senator Cam Ward
Alabama Senate
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee