



MASSACHUSETTS WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, House Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Michael Rodrigues, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Daniel Hunt, House Chair, House Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight
The Honorable Cindy Friedman, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and Vice Chair of Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Dear Chairs Michlewitz, Rodrigues, Hunt, and Friedman:

The Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA) is a non-profit member organization representing more than 600 clean water professionals throughout the Commonwealth. Our membership consists of wastewater operators, supervisors, managers, consulting engineers, equipment manufacturers and vendors. MAWEA is writing to express our strong support for the Baker Administration's proposal to allocate a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, as well as climate resiliency projects.

Wastewater treatment facilities have been a great public health and environmental success story in Massachusetts. This is especially true since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, which brought all facilities up to the secondary treatment standard that has produced some amazing environmental results. The largest river in New England, the Connecticut, once described by Jo Beth Mullens and Robert S. Bristow in a 2003 research study as "The Nation's Best Landscaped Sewer" is now enjoyed by boaters, fishers, swimmers, and other water enthusiasts. Many locations along the river are now homes to families of eagles and other

wildlife. Rivers across Massachusetts have likewise benefitted and been remarkably improved thanks to modern wastewater treatment. Yet the wastewater community continues to face many challenges – Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's), PFAS related issues, aging infrastructure, new stricter and costly regulations, stormwater management, biosolids disposal and many other issues.

With all the issues mentioned above, funding from ARPA could help us begin to address some of these issues. Governor Baker's proposal for \$400 million for a reserve for water and sewer infrastructure is an important first step. We would advocate that these funds need to be distributed as grants rather than loans. We would also ask that funding not be limited to projects that have already been submitted, or are in the pipeline, for State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans.

Investment in water and wastewater infrastructure will create jobs, spur private investment, and help our utilities be more resilient to future climatic changes. We applaud Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito recognizing the immediate need for addressing water and wastewater infrastructure issues in the Commonwealth and we hope that you and your colleagues in the legislature will move forward Governor Baker's proposal for water and wastewater infrastructure spending.

Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 774-276-9722 or mawea1965@yahoo.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mickey J. Nowak". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mickey Nowak
MAWEA Executive Director