



June 28, 2011

The Honorable Geoff Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Menendez
U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
U.S. Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**ACPPA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE SUSTAINABLE WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACT (S. 939/H.R. 1802)**

Dear Senators Menendez and Crapo and Congressmen Davis and Pascrell:

I am writing to express the concrete pressure pipe industry's strong support for the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act (S. 939/H.R. 1802) and commend you for working in a bipartisan manner to address our nation's water infrastructure crisis. We urge all members of the House and Senate to support and co-sponsor this important legislation.

The Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act would remove the state volume cap on private activity bonds (PABs or exempt facility bonds) that fund water and waste water infrastructure projects. Removing the PAB volume cap will increase private investment in water infrastructure, create jobs, and address years of underfunding in one of our nation's greatest resources—clean water. According to estimates, the legislation could generate as much as \$5 billion annually in incremental private capital for water infrastructure projects with a nominal cost to the federal government.

Your bill is an excellent opportunity to begin addressing an infrastructure crisis that threatens public health, the environment, and the economic vitality of communities across America. With tens of billions of dollars worth of ready to go water projects around the country, there is every reason to believe that leveraging private investments in water infrastructure will have an immediate and positive effect on the broader economy.

Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released *The Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2008* (CWNS). It documents a \$43.4 billion (17 percent) increase in investment needs over the 2004 CWNS report. The EPA estimates that as of January 1,

2008, nationwide capital investment needs for wastewater pollution control are \$298.1 billion. The figure includes \$192.2 billion for publicly-owned wastewater pipes and treatment facilities, \$63.6 billion for combined sewer overflow corrections, and \$42.3 billion for stormwater management.

Our wastewater needs are in addition to the \$334.8 billion investment EPA estimated is necessary to repair and rebuild our nation's drinking water infrastructure in the most recent *Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment* released in 2009.

Investing in water infrastructure will help the nation's economic recovery and reverse stubborn unemployment in the construction industry. In fact, according to a recent study by the Clean Water Council (CWC), an estimated 20,003 to 26,669 jobs can result from a national investment of \$1 billion. These job opportunities are spread across the economy with nearly half of the jobs in industries other than water and wastewater construction, demonstrating the broad reach of water infrastructure investment.

The plight of the nation's water infrastructure network grows worse every day. Years of underfunding have taken their toll on one of our nation's greatest resources—clean water. The American Society of Civil Engineers gave the country's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure a D-, the lowest grade of any infrastructure category. The time is long overdue for substantial investment in water infrastructure projects.

ACCPA looks forward to working with you to invest in our nation's water infrastructure to create jobs, grow the economy, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Lawhun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

Richard E. Lawhun, P.E.
President

ACCPA Member Companies

Ameron International Corporation, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Hanson Pressure Pipe, Dallas, TX

Munro Concrete Products, Ltd., Ontario, Canada

Vianini Pipe, Inc., Somerville, NJ