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Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act

The Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act would create a dedicated income stream called the WATER Fund to support our drinking water and clean water infrastructure. The WATER Act is the most robust and comprehensive funding proposal for our water systems and would eliminate our water infrastructure funding gap for the long-term.

Key provisions:

- 1) **Closing corporate tax loopholes and creating jobs** — The WATER Fund would be funded by ending the deferral on income taxes on offshore corporate profits. By eliminating this loophole, big U.S. corporations that keep their earnings abroad would pay to fix America's water infrastructure. This simple fix would generate revenues in excess of \$60 billion a year. Nearly \$35 billion will be earmarked for our public water and sewer systems—creating between 700,000 and a million jobs that cannot be outsourced.
- 2) **Supporting the State Revolving Funds** — The WATER Act would provide dedicated, sustained funding to the existing Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs.
- 3) **Removing lead service lines** — The WATER Act allows state SRFs to issue grants to private properties to replace homeowners' service lines that contain, or may contain, lead.
- 4) **Improving school tap water** — The WATER Act establishes a School Drinking Water Improvement Grant program to provide funding to public primary and secondary schools that wish to test, repair, replace, or install the infrastructure necessary for drinking water fountains or bottle filling stations.
- 5) **Supporting public water** — The WATER Act amends the Drinking Water SRF eligibility to restrict funding to publicly owned and operated water systems and small private mom-and-pop systems, so that large water corporations no longer take subsidized loans and resources away from municipal and small systems. The Act also allows communities to use SRF funds to secure public control of their water systems.
- 6) **Supporting affordability programs to help prevent water shutoffs** — The WATER Act requires EPA to produce guidance on water affordability programs, and it requires EPA to coordinate a study about water affordability, discrimination and civil rights violations by water and sewer providers, public participation in water regionalization efforts, and water shutoffs.
- 7) **Assisting small, rural and tribal communities** — The WATER Act provides dedicated technical assistance to help rural and small municipalities and tribal governments to make necessary improvements to their water and wastewater systems.
- 8) **Supporting rural households** — The WATER Act creates a new grant program for residential onsite sewage disposal systems to help households install and improve their septic tanks.
- 9) **Supporting disadvantaged communities** — The WATER Act provides more money to help disadvantaged communities improve their water and sewer systems. It increases the maximum amount of SRF funds that can go to provide additional subsidization to disadvantaged communities from 30 percent to 50 percent of the total capitalization grant.
- 10) **Support safe drinking water for Native American communities** — The WATER Act dedicates 3 percent of Drinking Water SRF dollars to grants for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages to provide drinking water.