



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Water Quality Investment Act of 2009

HR 1262 Oberstar

An Act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State Water Pollution Control Revolving Funds, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND

The adoption of the Clean Water Act resulted in substantial investment in our nation's clean water infrastructure and yielded significant improvements to local water quality. Almost 40 years later, many of sewage treatment and collection systems are aging, failing and fouling our waters once again. Substantial investment in our nation's clean water infrastructure yields significant economic and environmental benefits.

JUSTIFICATION

Sewage pollution threatens public health from exposure to pathogens, closes beaches, degrades water quality, and consumes valuable oxygen necessary for healthy fisheries. Since 2004, the federal government has significantly reduced funding for vital wastewater infrastructure, shifting the burden to local governments. While federal funding has decreased dramatically, our nation's clean water infrastructure needs continues to grow. The US Environmental Protection Agency has assessed national clean water needs at \$388 billion. Projects to fix and improve antiquated sewage treatment and collection systems in Connecticut and New York State are estimated at \$5 billion and \$36 billion, respectively, over the next 20 years. Every \$1 billion invested in infrastructure by the federal jobs creates more than 30,000 jobs.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

The Water Quality Investment Act contains several positive provisions including:

- ◆ Increased authorization for the Clean Water SRF program at \$2.5 billion;
- ◆ Mandatory 20% set aside of state capitalization grants for green project reserve;
- ◆ Requiring certification by system operators that water and energy conservation are components of fiscal sustainability;
- ◆ Priority for projects that use green infrastructure;
- ◆ Watershed Pilot Projects program improvement and authorization at \$100 million;
- ◆ [Sewer Overflow Monitoring, Reporting and Public Notification Requirement](#);
- ◆ [Great Lakes Legacy Act Reauthorization at \\$150 million](#);
- ◆ Study on the condition of wastewater treatment facilities in both the US and Canada that discharge into the Great Lakes;
- ◆ Study on pharmaceuticals and personal care products; and
- ◆ Task force on proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization working to protect public health and the environment in New York State and Connecticut

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE ADOPTION OF
HR 1262- THE WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**