



September 23, 2019

SENATOR BOOKER BILL PROVIDING FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY TO ADVANCE PRESSING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HEADS TO PRESIDENT'S DESK

After passage in the Senate last week, this week the House swiftly and unanimously voted to pass legislation authored by New Jersey Senator Cory Booker (D) that could help communities across the country push priority water infrastructure projects into construction. S.1689, dubbed the "The Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act," now heads to President Trump's desk to be signed into law. The Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act would give states facing public health crises (including lead in drinking water) the flexibility to make a one-time transfer of the federal funds in their Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to their Drinking Water SRF. **CWCC supports the President signing this bill into law and has expressed this position directly with the Office of the President. See attached letter.**

If this bill is signed into law, all states would be able to utilize this change by transferring up to \$100 million in federal funds from their Clean Water State Revolving Fund to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This would be at the sole discretion of the State. This bill was stimulated initially by communication between the Office of Senator Booker, the NJDEP and the UTCA of NJ noting the lack of flexibility when one side of the SRF is flush with funding and the other is not.

The effort on the bill was accelerated in light of increased scrutiny over lead issues in the City of Newark and a recommendation from the EPA for bottled water to be offered to residents. An engineering study was released in October 2018 finding that lead was leaching into Newark's drinking water because of ineffective corrosion treatment at one of the City's water treatment plants. The solution is a multi-phase plan to replace all known lead service lines in the City of Newark, which are being bid on by local contractors as we speak.

S. 1689 is important for all CWCC members working in states that have a surplus of Clean Water SRF (i.e., wastewater, stormwater projects) funding and are seeing an increased demand for Drinking Water SRF (i.e., lead, water treatment projects) that cannot be met by the funding agency. Getting funding off the sidelines and assigned to projects that are ready to be bid meets a clear priority for the CWCC.

cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org | P.O. Box 728 | Allenwood, NJ 08720 | Office: (732) 292-4300 | Fax: (732) 292-4310

Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

AGC of America • AGC of Texas • Alabama Utility Contractors Association • Arizona Utility Contractors Association • Associated Pennsylvania Constructors • Associated Utility Contractors Of Maryland* • Connecticut Construction Industries Association • CIC of Westchester County & Hudson Valley* • Engineering Contractors Association • General Contractors Association Of New York • Georgia Utility Contractors Association • Indiana Constructors Inc. • Long Island Contractors Association • Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association • Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association • Minnesota Utility Contractors Association* • National Rural Water Association • New Mexico Utility Contractors Association • NYSLECET • Ohio Contractors Association • Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland • Tennessee RoadBuilders Association • Underground Contractors Association of Illinois* • United Contractors* • UCA of Anne Arundel County • Utility Contractors Association of New England* • Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey* • Contractors Association of West Virginia • Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

* Steering Committee Member



Robert A. Briant, Jr.
Chairman
Clean Water Construction Coalition
P.O. Box 728
Allenwood, NJ 08720
bobby@utcanj.org

September 20, 2019

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

S.1689, "The Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act" will soon be on your desk for signature after passage in both Houses with bipartisan and near unanimous support. On behalf of the Clean Water Construction Coalition - a national coalition of utility construction associations representing 27 states and committed to securing much-needed funding to meet the Nation's clean water and safe drinking water needs - we respectfully request that you sign this legislation into law.

"The Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act" would give states facing public health crises - including lead in drinking water - the flexibility to make a one-time transfer of the Federal funds in their Clean Water State Revolving Fund to their Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. If signed, S.1689 will better empower states to respond to the public health crises that arise from our aging water infrastructure.

As we work together to rebuild and repair our country's infrastructure, flexibility will be a critical tool in the effort to maximize the impact of existing resources. Additionally, an increased investment in water has an outstanding return on investment. In states like New Jersey, a \$1B investment in water infrastructure creates 13,787 jobs- and those jobs will be in demand. Nearly forty five percent of water workers are over 54 years old, and beyond its inherent public value, investing in our water infrastructure also serves to protect and expand access to living wage jobs for thousands of young people entering the workforce.

Mr. President, the longer we wait, the more our repairs will cost. Emergency work costs an average of 10 times more than scheduled repairs and maintenance, and this critical administrative tool will help states get in front of the crisis. In facing our national need, and in the wake of such resounding, bipartisan support, the Clean Water Construction Coalition respectfully urges you to sign into law S.1689, the "Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act."

Most respectfully,

Robert A. Briant, Jr.

cc: Mick Mulvaney, Chief of Staff
Andrew R. Wheeler, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org | P.O. Box 728 | Allenwood, NJ 08720 | Office: (732) 292-4300 | Fax: (732) 292-4310

Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

AGC of America • AGC of Texas • Alabama Utility Contractors Association • Arizona Utility Contractors Association • Associated Pennsylvania Constructors • Associated Utility Contractors Of Maryland • Connecticut Construction Industries Association • CIC of Westchester County & Hudson Valley • Engineering Contractors Association • General Contractors Association Of New York • Georgia Utility Contractors Association • Indiana Constructors Inc. • Long Island Contractors Association • Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association • Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association • Minnesota Utility Contractors Association • National Rural Water Association • New Mexico Utility Contractors Association • NYSLECET • Ohio Contractors Association • Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland • Tennessee Road Builders Association • Underground Contractors Association of Illinois • United Contractors • UCA of Anne Arundel County • Utility Contractors Association of New England • Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey • Contractors Association of West Virginia • Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

* Steering Committee Member