

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representatives
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Russ Fulcher
U.S. House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 18, 2020

Dear Senators Crapo and Risch, and Representatives Simpson and Fulcher,

As you know, the direct and indirect effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic have undermined Idaho's and the nation's economy. Over 149,000 Idahoans have filed for unemployment and the nation is facing conditions not seen since the Great Depression. In response, Congress should work with states to invest in job creation through existing and newly created programs to get Americans and Idahoans back to work. These investments can meet multiple goals including restoring our infrastructure, improving our public lands and waters, cleaning up our energy grid, and creating thousands of needed jobs.

Idaho has a history of collaborative success. Each of the proposals below has broad support from diverse stakeholders and supports existing initiatives that have a successful history of achieving goals to benefit Idaho's economy and environment.

- *The Clean Water Act §319 program* provides critical funding for nonpoint source pollution reduction projects, creating rural jobs and sustaining communities nationwide. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality administers this funding. This program is already widely used in the Snake River watershed, and across the state, to address sediment and nutrient pollution coming off agricultural fields. The program also funds projects that improve water quality associated with urban stormwater, forestry, mining and other activities.
- *The WaterSMART program*, administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, focuses on improving water conservation and helping water-resource managers improve water use. In 2020, the program provided critical funding to the Twin Falls Canal

Company to construct artificial wetlands that trap sediment and phosphorus from nonpoint sources along the Snake River. Other recent Idaho projects include a partnership between the Henry's Fork Foundation and the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District, along with projects from the Salmon River Canal Company, City of Ammon and others.

- *The Clean Water State Revolving Fund* is the main source of financing for wastewater municipalities across the nation. No other program has done as much to achieve substantial water quality improvement in our country's waters. This program received a funding boost in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, which allocated nearly \$20 million to improve treatment systems in eight Idaho municipalities in FY2019 and provided over \$29 million for a needed upgrade in Lewiston in FY2020. Currently, dozens of Idaho projects, totaling over \$400 million in potential investments could be supported by this critical funding. The similar *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund* provides additional financing for municipal drinking water systems.
- *The USDA Rural Development and Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program* supports rural communities with populations of less than 10,000. The program provides up to 40-year loans for investments in drinking water, stormwater and waste management systems.

Recently, Energy and Public Works Committee Chairman Barasso introduced two measures with broad bipartisan support: America's Water Infrastructure Act S. 3591 and the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act S. 3590. These bills reauthorize State Revolving Funds to the tune of \$10 billion over a 3-year period. Other water-related infrastructure funds are also included in these bills. Separately, in the House Transportation Committee, Chairman Defazio introduced a bipartisan measure that authorized the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at a level of \$16 billion over a 4-year period and includes an additional \$7 billion for authorizations specifically focused on wastewater. At this time, we do not advocate for one measure over another, however we request you carefully track these proposals to ensure that funds can be quickly directed to on-the-ground projects in Idaho.

Together, we are committed to implementing projects in Idaho that create jobs, improve water quality, and restore our environment. We strongly encourage your support for increased funding for these programs. We stand ready to work with you to demonstrate the broad base of support these programs have garnered and their solid history of results and success in Idaho.

Sincerely,

Cities

City of Albion
City of American Falls
City of Arimo
City of Atomic City
City of Boise
City of Cambridge
City of Carey
City of Cascade
City of Clark Fork
City of Dayton
City of East Hope
City of Genesee
City of Gooding
City of Hansen
City of Hazelton
City of Iona
City of Lewisville
City of Malad City
City of McCall
City of McCammon
City of McCammon
City of Montpelier
City of Moyie Springs
City of Nezperce
City of Notus
City of Paul
City of Plummer
City of Pocatello
City of Ponderay
City of Potlatch
City of Preston
City of Rexburg
City of Rigby
City of Riggins
City of Rupert
City of Salmon
City of Sandpoint
City of Shelley
City of Shoshone
City of Smelterville
City of Troy
City of Twin Falls
City of Victor
City of Weiser
City of Wilder
Town of Fairfield

Businesses

Advanced Control Systems
DN Tanks
Future Techs Water, LLC
McCain Foods
Mueller Water Products
R.C. Worst & Company
Rocky Mountain Valves
TD&H Engineering
Water Utility App, LLC

Idaho Organizations

Boise River Enhancement Network
Conservation Voters for Idaho
Idaho Business for the Outdoors
Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club
Idaho Organization of Resource Councils
Idaho Rural Water Association
Idaho Water Users Association
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Portneuf Resource Council
Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper
Snake River Waterkeeper
Southern Idaho Water Quality Coalition
Weiser River Resource Council

Idaho Utilities and Community

Associations

Atlanta Water Association
Bear Lake West POA
Birch Creek Culinary Co.
Cassandra Hills Owners Association
Castle Mountain Homeowners Association
Cave Bay Community Services
City of Weiser - Wastewater Lab
Clarkia Water and Sewer District
Elk City Water & Sewer Association
Falls Water Co., Inc.
Lacon Water Co-op
Pinehurst Water District
Scenic Properties Water Association
South Fork CDA River Sewer District
Teton Water, Inc.
Trow Creek Water Association, Inc.