



Saving America's Struggling Water Systems

118th Congress

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20) and Frank Pallone Jr. (NJ-06)

"Every life and every job depend on access to safe drinking water."

❖ Paul Tonko

Our drinking water infrastructure is collapsing

- While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act made historic investments in our nation's drinking water systems, much more funding is necessary to address the tremendous project backlog.
- **86 percent** of U.S. households rely on public water supplies.
- In 2021, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave America's water infrastructure a **C- grade**.
- Leaking pipes lose an estimated **6 billion gallons of clean drinking water** every day.
- There are more than 700 water main breaks every day, or one every two minutes.
- There are as many as **10 million lead service lines in use, exposing more than 400,000 schools and childcare facilities are exposed to lead.**
- As many as **63 million people** were exposed to unsafe water more than once in the past decade.

Investment in our water systems is vital

- Businesses choose areas with modern water systems over places where water safety, reliability, or affordability is a concern.
- According to *Blue Green Alliance*, \$105 billion invested in water infrastructure over ten years would create 654,000 job-years.
- Emergency repairs can be **3-10X** more expensive than planned replacement.
 - Emergency breaks can cause overtime staff hours, service outages and property damage.
- If chronic underinvestment in U.S. water infrastructure continues, **GDP will decline by \$2.9 trillion by 2039**, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Congress Can Stop this Water Crisis!

The AQUA Act

- ❖ Invests nearly **\$104 billion over 10 years for our nation's water systems**, including
 - \$49 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) over 10 years
 - \$30 billion to support the full replacement of every lead service line
 - \$5 billion to help systems remediate PFAS contamination
- ❖ Requires **EPA to set new, health-protective standards** for PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, microcystin toxin, and chromium-6 while making setting clearer criteria for EPA to set standards in the future
- ❖ Authorizes \$1.5 billion annually for 10 years for a permanent water affordability program, modeled on the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, to assist households in improving or maintaining access to affordable drinking water.

Connect with Congressman Paul Tonko on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram: @RepPaulTonko