



The AQUA Act of 2021

H.R. 3291, 117th Congress

Sponsors: Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY) & Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

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

❖ Paul Tonko

Our drinking water infrastructure is failing

- **86 percent of U.S. households** currently 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**
 - **Includes 400,000 schools & childcare facilities with lead components**
- As many as **63 million people** were exposed to unsafe water more than once in the past decade

Investing in our water systems pays off

- EPA's 6th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment estimates \$472.6 billion is needed to maintain and improve the nation's drinking water infrastructure over the next 20 years
- Emergency repairs can be **3-10X** as expensive as planned replacement
 - Emergency breaks can cause overtime staff hours, service outages and property damage
- Businesses thrive with modern water systems and suffer in places where water safety, reliability, or affordability is a concern
- According to the BlueGreen Alliance, \$105 billion invested in U.S. water infrastructure will create 654,000 jobs over 10 years

Congress Can End America's Water Crisis!

H.R. 3291, the AQUA Act of 2021

- ❖ Invests **\$105 billion over 10 years for our nation's water systems**, including:
 - \$53 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)
 - \$45 billion to fully replace every lead service line
 - \$5 billion to provide assistance to systems with PFAS contamination
- ❖ Requires **EPA to set national standards** for PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, and microcystin toxin, and makes it easier for EPA to set standards in the future
- ❖ Authorizes **\$4 billion emergency relief program** to provide forgiveness for utility customers facing debts and unpaid fees since March 1, 2020

Congress is the last line of defense for state and local governments needing to maintain their critical water infrastructure. The time to act is now!

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