

Trickling Down: America's Struggling Water Systems & How to Save Them

Office of Congressman Paul Tonko (NY-20)
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Our drinking water infrastructure is collapsing

- Albany alone has **317 miles of pipes**, some of them as much as **135 years old**
- **86%** of U.S. households rely on public water supplies.
- In 2017, the *American Society of Civil Engineers* gave America's water infrastructure a **D grade**.
- Leaking pipes lose an estimated **7 billion gallons of clean drinking water** every day.
- There are more than **700 water main breaks** every day.
- There may be as many as **10 million lead service lines** in use.

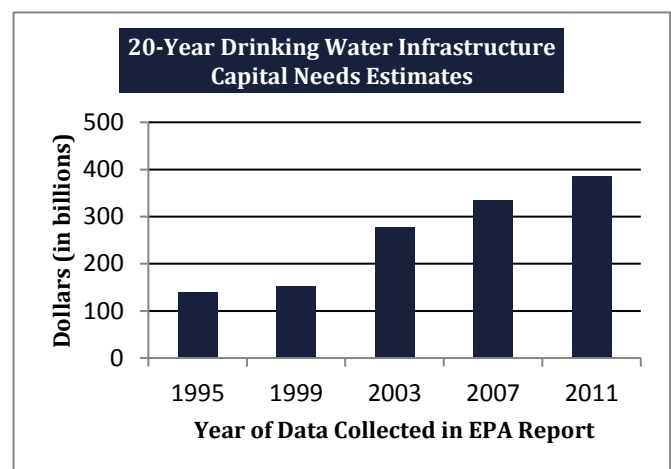
Investment in our water systems creates jobs & protects local taxpayers

- Every life and every job depends on access to safe drinking water.
- Businesses choose areas with modern water systems over places where water safety, reliability, or affordability is a concern.
- According to *BlueGreen Alliance*, \$1 billion invested in water infrastructure creates **20,000+ jobs**.
- Emergency repairs can be **3-10x as expensive** as planned replacement.
 - Emergency breaks can require **overtime staff hours, service outages**, and can even result in **property damage**.

Congress Needs to Act!

Congress needs to immediately reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), the primary source of federal funding for drinking water infrastructure financing, something it hasn't done **in 22 years**.

- In 2013, the EPA estimated **\$384.2 billion needed in the next 20 years** just to keep these systems in working order.
 - Real increase of **~\$157 billion dollars** since the first assessment was released in 1995.
- Federal investments in water infrastructure have fallen from **6 to 7% in the early 2000s** to just **4% in 2014**.
- Representatives in Congress have proposed legislation, including **the Drinking Water System Improvement Act**, to safeguard public health & significantly improve the long-term sustainability and efficiency of our nation's water systems.



Congress has neglected its duty to be a partner to state and local governments needing to maintain this critical infrastructure. Whether as citizens, journalists or public servants, the time to act is now!

Connect with Representative Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @RepPaulTonko