

12. WATER:**Bipartisan lawmakers seek \$13.8B for infrastructure improvements**

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A group of bipartisan legislators on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee yesterday floated a bill that would provide nearly \$14 billion over five years for water improvement projects.

According to a [summary](#), the bill would invest \$13.8 billion in the Clean Water State Revolving Funds, which offer low-interest loans to states for wastewater infrastructure. The bill also would create a Clean Water Trust Fund to provide capitalization grants for the revolving funds and authorize new loan and loan guarantee programs.

"In addition to creating immediate construction jobs, funding for modern water and wastewater infrastructure improves the quality of life for area residents and helps to provide the kind of basic services needed to attract new and grow existing businesses," said Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), ranking member of the T&I Committee. "While the amount of public funding available to support repair and replacement has long been insufficient and is declining, this new bill constitutes a badly needed shot to help shore up our aging systems and grow our economy."

Besides Rahall, the bill is sponsored by Reps. Tom Petri (R-Wis.), Steve LaTourette (R-Ohio) and Tim Bishop (D-N.Y.), ranking member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee.

The Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds currently provide \$5 billion annually for water projects to states. The funds saw a \$1 billion budget cut in the House-passed 2012 Interior-U.S. EPA budget, a move that industry groups said would further damage the failing water infrastructure.

The bill has the support of the National League of Cities and the Water Infrastructure Network, a coalition that includes the American Society of Civil Engineers, Natural Resources Defense Council and National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

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