



July 19, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

There is broad agreement that America's transportation, energy and water infrastructure is insufficient to meet growing demands, outdated, or in need of repair or even replacement. The resources needed to fix this problem are tremendous: the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates costs at more than \$1 trillion for drinking water infrastructure alone. It is imperative that we find a way to fund these projects in a financially responsible manner because a healthy water supply is not only critical to our citizen's daily lives but also to the economic success of our country.

Together we manufacture, purchase, install, and use a variety of products used in water systems, including chlorine, orthophosphates that prevent corrosion, additives for concrete pipes, and plastic that's wrapped around iron pipes to reduce corrosion. Our members make the basic plastic resins and polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polypropylene (PP), and high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes. Others purchase and install piping systems, or are end-users benefiting from clean water and efficient drainage or waste removal.

Currently a large number of municipalities have regulatory restrictions that greatly limit the types of materials that can be considered for infrastructure projects. By taking many potential solutions off the table, these regulations have increased costs for projects and blocked new and innovative materials from being easily adopted. The result is less modernization and billions of dollars in wasted resources.

When federal funds are used to support water infrastructure projects, an open and competitive bidding process can save money. The National Taxpayers Union estimates that open competition could save over \$371 billion on water infrastructure improvements alone. BCC Research undertook a detailed study of the water supply market and the stormwater pipe market and found even within these two subcategories, \$20.6 billion and \$22.3 billion, respectively, of pipe cost savings potential could be realized by transitioning to wholly open competitive processes between 2017 and 2026. At over \$4 billion per year in savings, open competition could effectively triple the impact of federal water infrastructure support through the EPA's State Revolving Funds.

Simple, common-sense legislation that uses competition to help stretch our investments in water infrastructure further is good for business, taxpayers, local governments, and the country. As you consider writing infrastructure legislation please include open competition requirements for water infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
Associated Builders and Contractors
Leading Builders of America
National Association of Homebuilders
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Plastic Pipe Institute
Plastics Industry Association
PVC Pipe Association
The Vinyl Institute