



June 9, 2025

Honorable Christine Barber, House Chair
Honorable Becca Rausch, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133
Via email to: jointcommittee.environment@malegislature.gov

RE: Support for House Bill 1022 / Senate Bill 563, An act relative to meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future

Dear Chair Barber, Chair Rausch, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for passage of **House Bill 1022 / Senate Bill 563, An act relative to meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future.**

Many of our organizations are represented on the Water Infrastructure Advisory Committee (WIAC), established by Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014¹. The WIAC's statutory purpose is to *"monitor the progress of closing the gap in funding for water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure,"* a gap first documented in the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission's (WIFC) February 2012 report. This report, titled *"Massachusetts's Water Infrastructure: Toward Financial Sustainability"*² identified a funding gap of \$10.2 billion for Drinking Water, \$11.2 billion for Clean Water, and conservatively estimated stormwater needs at \$18 billion.

¹ <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2014/Chapter259>

² <https://www.mass.gov/doc/water-infrastructure-finance-commission-final-report/download>

Massachusetts water utilities are nearing a crisis and need urgent attention to securing funding to meet regulatory mandates and address infrastructure challenges, many of which must be completed within the next 5 to 10 years. Failure to do so could jeopardize compliance with both the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act and diminish the reliability of critical services for the residents, businesses, and institutions of the Commonwealth. Neglecting to address the funding gap has serious implications for public health, environmental protection, economic growth, and quality of life.

At the outset, we appreciate the leadership of Representatives Philips, Kilcoyne, Kushmerek, and Giannino and Senator Cronin for filing this legislation which attempts to build on the foundation established in Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014. The legislation is an amalgamation of many ideas and funding strategies, some of which have been included in legislation previously passed by one branch or the other, but not ultimately included in water infrastructure dependent legislation. While some of the funding proposals are normally found in bond bills or appropriations filed by the Governor or the respective Ways and Means Committees, their inclusion in this legislation is a clarion call to funding action. Why?

Put simply, the Commonwealth's water infrastructure is aging and requires improvements and replacement to continue to provide the essential services of potable drinking water and sanitation. Much of the water-related infrastructure in the Commonwealth is beyond its useful life. We have pipe in the ground that was put in in the late 1800's/early 1900's. Many treatment plants were built in the 1970's at the advent of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act (much of it with 90% federal grant funding) and are no longer sufficient to meet today's standards. Based on a 2021 survey conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the current drinking water system investment needed in the Commonwealth is approximately \$15.2 billion over the next 20 years to maintain compliance with existing Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations³. Based on a 2022 EPA survey, the reported needs for compliance with clean water (wastewater/stormwater) requirements is \$21.7 billion.⁴ Notably, these figures do not include the substantial costs related to addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), which the EPA regulated in April 2024 under its National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR).

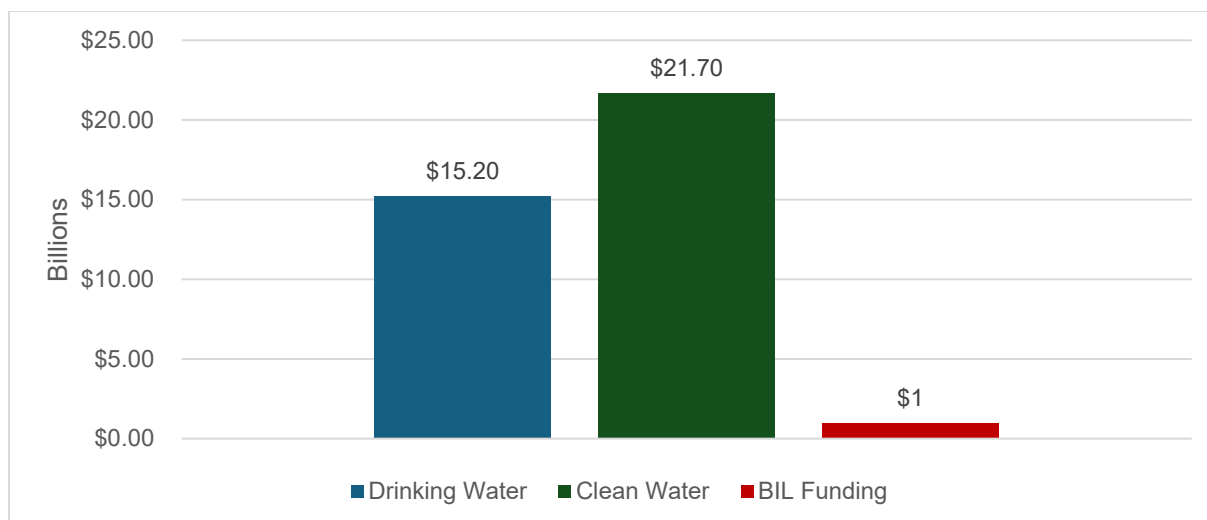
While the 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides once-in-a-generation funding to support infrastructure upgrades, it is not nearly sufficient to allow for meaningful progress in closing the funding gap. Massachusetts is estimated to receive just \$1 billion over the five-year window of BIL funding for water and wastewater projects⁵. **That \$1 billion represents just shy of 3% of the identified needs.**

³ Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, 7th Report to Congress. Office of Water, EPA. September 2023. https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSA_September2023_Final.pdf.

⁴ 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, Report to Congress, April 2024.

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/2022-cwns-report-to-congress.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2024-massachusetts-clean-water-trust-guide-to-srf-financing/download>



While the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust is among the best administrators of our respective State Revolving Fund (SRF), the primary source of funding for the SRF comes from federal dollars in the form of EPA grants to each state. In short, we are subject to many funding decisions well out of our control. In recent years, Congress reinstituted earmarks and grants given to communities for water and wastewater improvements, which have come out of the base SRF allocation, decreasing the amount of funding available for all water and wastewater systems seeking SRF funds; the effects of this are documented in this report *“The Role of Earmarks in SRF Appropriations in the 118th Congress.”*⁶ While the BIL funding is in effect, the impact of this reduction is somewhat dampened; however, once BIL funding goes away, the subsequent cuts to our SRF program will be devastating. In fact, President Trump’s proposed “skinny budget” would cut 90% from the SRF. It should be noted that this will not only impact infrastructure investment, but it could also impact MassDEP staffing levels, as many positions are funded through the federal grant to administer the programs.

Of further note, the SRF is a **competitive loan process**. The 2024 Final Intended Use Plan provided loans to only 63% of the new clean water projects submitted and 45% of new drinking water projects submitted. Due to capacity constraints for new projects, the 2025 Final Intended Use Plan funded just 13 new drinking water projects (out of 43 submitted). The remaining unfunded projects will have to seek funding through other means or wait to be resubmitted in subsequent years.

In 2021 and 2023, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provided approximately \$200 million, but the Clean Water Trust used much of that to provide additional principal forgiveness to projects previously approved. There are so many infrastructure needs, but much of the recent SRF funding is going to projects that will address PFAS and lead remediation. Those projects receive higher points in MassDEP’s scoring system, leaving general infrastructure projects like pipe replacement with no low-interest loan nor grant opportunities.

⁶ <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R48066>

Public Water Systems and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (wastewater) utilities are struggling to keep rates affordable for their customers while making the investments needed to renew their infrastructure and comply with regulatory requirements. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Advisory Board compiles annual water and sewer retail rate information. Their 2023 survey indicates there has been a 28% increase in average combined annual water & sewer charges in MWRA communities during the period 2003-2023.⁷

We also note that the Healey Administration's desired goal of increasing housing production creates additional challenges for our municipalities as it will increase consumer demands on water utilities and therefore generate additional water infrastructure investment needs.

While we know the Healey Administration will soon be filing an Environmental Bond Bill, It will take more than Environmental Bond Bill authorizations to close our funding gap. While any and all funding is welcome and appreciated, it is very clear that the existing state allocations are not sufficient to make a dent in our needs. The fact that some of the 2018 Environmental Bond Bill funding remains unexpended demonstrates the limitations of such bonds in delivering timely funding. While the issue of lack of appropriation of existing authorizations is important to address, the Commonwealth also needs to be urgently working on identifying **NEW** sources of funding that are dedicated to water infrastructure. Accordingly, House Bill 1022 / Senate Bill 563 seeks to drive this discussion forward.

It must also be recognized that there are two pieces to the funding gap: a lack of adequate funding sources and growing costs for water infrastructure. The lack of funding has been discussed at length, though little action has been taken. Growing costs have also been discussed but there has been little mention of the role federal and state government play in contributing to those costs, namely through legislation and regulation. Government at all levels needs to evaluate costs/benefits when it comes to new initiatives impacting water infrastructure. While it may be argued that new environmental requirements are needed to protect our land, air, water, wildlife and people, rapidly escalating costs with no commensurate federal or state assistance can result in unaffordable water services, or inability to move forward with projects, which could lead to even more severe health and environmental implications.

Having identified the funding gaps and additional factors impacting our efforts to tackle the Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs, **An Act relative to meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future** puts us on a path toward meeting our utilities' urgent needs by implementing the following funding and policy changes:

SECTION 2 - FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

⁷ <https://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/document-library/2023-annual-water-and-sewer-retail-rate-survey/>

- **IDENTIFY NEW REVENUE SOURCES:** In the 2012 WIFC report, it was recommended that the Commonwealth create a new trust fund in the amount of **at least** \$200 million per year, dedicated to water infrastructure, funded through the General Fund; this would be separate from the federal funds and state capitalization for the existing SRF. There has been no concerted effort by the Commonwealth to implement this recommendation. We envision this additional funding could be prioritized for the replacement and upgrades of existing water infrastructure, a funding need that has been sorely missing. Existing financial assistance programs such as SRF could then focus on needs related to compliance with federal and state regulations. Funding should be provided in the form of grants or loans with principal forgiveness to mitigate the financial burden on water and wastewater utilities and their ratepayers. The BIL provides a successful model in its Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program; this grant has a much more simplified process of applying for funding than the SRF process and could be replicated to distribute funds from this new trust fund.
- **ENCOURAGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS WHERE APPROPRIATE:** The Commonwealth is fortunate to have an amazing drinking water resource at its disposal that can help communities facing water contamination or growth constraints. Funding should be appropriated to support connection to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water system. Thanks to the MWRA's aggressive watershed protection program, managed in partnership with the Commonwealth, MWRA's source water consistently ranks among the highest quality in the nation. The source waters, including the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, contain only trace levels of PFAS, making the MWRA system an attractive option for communities struggling with water contamination. Additionally, the MWRA's impressive water conservation efforts—where the City of Boston now uses less water than in 1900 despite significant growth—demonstrate its capacity to handle expanded service. During last session's housing bond bill debate, the House of Representatives proposed \$1 billion in funding for connection to the MWRA, which ultimately did not make it through the legislative process. Recent evaluations of MWRA system expansion feasibility highlight that the House's proposed funding would be insufficient should water service be expanded to the recently studied areas (North Shore, South Shore, Metro West, West). As a result, we are requesting \$2 billion be allocated to support the infrastructure upgrades needed to expand MWRA's service territory in any area studied. Supporting regional solutions like this will not only address immediate local challenges but provide a sustainable, cost-effective option for water service across the Commonwealth.

Further, there are other opportunities to support regional solutions beyond the MWRA and to that end, funding should be appropriated as outlined in Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 to support regional connections. We request \$10 million be appropriated for the 1:1 matching program established by Section 31A of Chapter 21 of the General Laws.

Finally, funding should be appropriated for Section 2NNNN of Chapter 29 of the General Laws which would help with rehabilitation of collection systems. We request appropriating the maximum amount allowed by law of \$13.8 million.

- **APPROPRIATE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZATION FOR CAPITALIZATION OF THE SRF:** Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 provided authorization for line-item 1599-0093 (Clean Water Trust Contract Assistance) to increase to \$138 million per fiscal year, yet historically only \$63-65 million is appropriated annually. While the contract assistance does not directly fund projects; it serves the critical role of meeting the difference between borrower repayments and amounts owed on debt service. Raising the appropriations within the contract assistance line-item will allow the Clean Water Trust to provide more 0% loans and other incentives to encourage municipalities and water utilities to address their water infrastructure more affordably.
- **ASSIST TOWNS IN RETIRING DEBT:** The WIFC suggested creating a new debt assistance program funded at \$50-60 million annually through the General Fund. The WIFC recognized that at one time the Sewer Rate Relief Fund was being utilized to assist communities in combatting their debt. The amount of funding being allocated in recent years has not been enough to meaningfully impact debt reduction. For the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget cycle, there was no appropriation at all. We are asking that the sewer rate relief fund be given its full appropriation of \$78.5 million. This should be used to retire existing debt and should be available to all communities meeting state criteria for water and wastewater debt, including but not limited to MWRA communities.
- **INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE HOUSINGWORKS PROGRAM:** The HousingWorks Infrastructure Program (HousingWorks) has made investments throughout the state since 2023 (FY24). The program, patterned after the highly successful MassWorks Infrastructure Program (MassWorks), has the potential to be a key facilitator for housing growth. Since housing production is inextricably linked to having adequate water infrastructure, there is a nexus that should encourage more funding through this program. While HousingWorks is relatively new, the model is a successful one; the Commonwealth should appropriate \$375 million to HousingWorks.
- **INCLUDE FUNDING TO SUPPORT BIOSOLIDS RESEARCH:** Wastewater biosolids (sewage sludge) are being increasingly scrutinized and demonized as a source of PFAS contamination. Wastewater treatment facilities do not add PFAS during their treatment processes, but this class of contaminants may enter the wastewater stream through industrial and residential sewer discharges. PFAS may then bind to the biosolids that are generated at various points in the treatment chain. Biosolids disposal is limited to incineration, land application as fertilizer or landfiling. The fate and environmental transport of PFAS through these disposal options is far from clear and much more research is needed

before it can be determined whether any of these choices pose a significant risk to health or the environment. Land application as fertilizer is a great benefit to agriculture and is generally much preferred to alternative sources of fertilizer. Decisions made to curtail any biosolids disposal options must be based on science and facts. To that end, NEIWPCC has initiated a biosolids research and data gathering program called the Biohub⁸. It should be noted that landfilling biosolids would be a costly endeavor totaling millions of dollars – dollars that would be borne almost entirely by ratepayers. Further, landfilling would only be a temporary solution as other states implement their own regulations for PFAS found in biosolids.

- **FUNDING TO SUPPORT REQUIRED ADAPTATION PLANS:** As the recent hurricane impacts have highlighted, planning for storm/flooding damage to water infrastructure has become increasingly important. Recent NPDES permits issued to wastewater facilities in Massachusetts by EPA Region 1 require adaptation planning to ascertain future storm damage possibilities and develop mitigation strategies. These requirements have value but do not belong in 5-year NPDES permits. With consideration of additional costs being added to already burdensome NPDES permits, adaptation planning could have been advanced under existing infrastructure resiliency programs with accompanying funding. Such an approach would have been embraced by wastewater systems and municipalities rather than being met with resistance. This bill allocates \$10 million to help utilities comply with this provision of their permit.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **SECTION 3 - REVIEW THE INTERBASIN TRANSFER ACT:** Communities looking to connect to other water and wastewater systems that cross river basin and town boundaries must undergo a rigorous review under the Interbasin Transfer Act Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 21, §§8B-8D) (ITA). The ITA became effective on March 8, 1984. The Act gave the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission (WRC) authority to approve or deny transfers of water or wastewater outside of its river basin of origin. Pursuant to the Act, the WRC promulgated regulations (313 CMR 4.00) defining and delineating the river basins of the Commonwealth and establishing application procedures and the criteria upon which the WRC bases its decision to approve or deny an ITA application. Since the ITA was passed 40 years ago, it is time to study this law to see whether it is meeting its original goal – particularly where there is an ability to meet a community's water needs for developing new, affordable housing and/or addressing PFAS while still being protective of the environment. The ITA process is complicated, and the process can sometimes take years before a community is to the point of actually filing the application; this can be expensive which contributes more to the overall cost. We are requesting that an ITA Review Commission be established to evaluate the ITA.

⁸ <https://neiwpcc.org/biohub/>

- **SECTIONS 4 & 5 - AMEND THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CHARGE TO ADDRESS CURRENT CHALLENGES:** Our water infrastructure needs are so critically important, and the regulatory mandates have grown exponentially in the last 10 years. We are asking that Section 24 of Chapter 21A be amended to require the WIAC to meet at least quarterly. We also note that given the tremendous costs associated with ever-increasing regulatory mandates, that the charge of the WIAC should be expanded to evaluate new funding sources that will work toward closing the gap and help us address remediation of PFAS (while this pertains currently to drinking water, it will likely expand to wastewater in the future), removal of lead service lines, elimination of combined sewer overflows, reduction of nutrients in effluent discharges, biosolids management, and stormwater management as required by EPA permits and Massachusetts stormwater standards. These areas, which were not even contemplated in 2014, have added additional burdens that deserve focused attention. Finally, the WIAC must be charged with periodically reevaluating the gap (at least every 5 years). We understand that this is potentially a time-consuming endeavor; however, not only is the prior report 13 years old, but both the WIFC report and the EPA's most up-to-date estimates do not include upcoming regulatory changes such as the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and Improvements and PFAS remediation both in drinking water as well as wastewater and biosolids. It is vitally important for us to understand what the potential costs for compliance will be.

- **SECTION 6 - STATE AGENCIES MUST BE MINDFUL OF COST IMPACTS OF NEW REGULATORY INITIATIVES:** The water infrastructure funding gap will only continue to widen with each new law, regulation or permit condition requiring municipalities and districts to meet constantly evolving standards. State agencies within the Executive Branch should be required to evaluate costs and benefits in all future regulatory planning. This analysis should include compliance costs, funding sources, and alternative approaches. A new agency perspective of giving more attention to compliance costs and benefits, while seeking alternatives that are less impactful on water utility ratepayers would help keep the funding gap from inexorably expanding. It would also give water utilities a stronger signal that there is a collaboration with the regulatory agencies toward meeting common goals. Adopting a cost/benefit approach is necessary if a serious effort to bridge the funding gap is to be realized. Cost/benefit as a primary consideration of state agencies does not preclude environmental or public health protections but does help ensure that limited public resources are being spent wisely. The WIFC devoted an entire section of their report to highlighting the concerns about permitting and regulation and the need to streamline and ensure that regulations are using our scarce resources in the most efficient way. We see many areas where an overly conservative interpretation of regulations is leading to increased costs, for example:
 - Approval of new or upgraded drinking water treatment systems to address PFAS. Many systems are being required to run comprehensive pilot tests to prove which "Best Available Technologies" will work for their system. It

is being suggested that upon media changeouts where a different manufacturer's product is used that a new permit will need to be filed to assess the efficacy of the product. The increasing amounts of sampling at various points within the treatment train are coming at a substantial cost.

- Communities interested in pursuing Integrated Water Resources Management Planning are frustrated by the permitting silos that persist contrary to the intent of integrated planning, which prevent them from fully realizing the benefits integrated planning could achieve. On the wastewater side, where EPA has control over certain permitting requirements, the state should be advocating for meaningful implementation of integrated water resource plans. In all areas of regulation, standards, and/or permitting, cost/benefit analyses need to be conducted to ensure that our limited financial resources are being used for the highest public benefits.

To this end, we suggest there needs to be an effort between regulators and the regulated community to evaluate meaningful ways to streamline processes while also being protective of public health and environmental protection. The legislation creates a Water Infrastructure Efficiency Task Force to examine potential regulatory hurdles which will allow for the identification of, and potentially action for creating greater efficiencies.

- **SECTION 7 - EXPAND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

Designing, constructing, and managing water-related infrastructure is critical work. The construction, engineering, and water/wastewater utility professions are facing workforce challenges. As an example, more than one-half of the licensed drinking water operators in the Commonwealth are over the age of 50. This bill suggests establishing a Water Sector Workforce Development Fund to recruit, train, and support individuals working in underground construction, engineering, and/or for Public Water Systems or Publicly Owned Treatment Works.

- **SECTION 8 - REVIEW MASSDEP'S SCORING CRITERIA FOR SRF PROJECTS:**

As stated previously, many projects that communities deem vital to ensure the reliability of their water systems are not scoring high enough to even receive an SRF loan. While no one discounts the need to address PFAS and Lead Service Line removal, it is equally critical to provide low-interest loans and principal forgiveness opportunities for essential infrastructure projects such as water main and sewer replacements, pump station repairs, tank replacements, and meter upgrades. An evaluation of the ranking process is needed to ensure these "bread & butter" projects are not disadvantaged. Lack of external funding for these upgrades often results in deferred maintenance, leading to delayed replacements and increasing the risk of critical infrastructure failures. For example, the estimated cost if the MWRA's Metropolitan Tunnel System went offline is over \$300 million per day. While smaller systems may not face the same scale of financial impact, the damage to local economies from infrastructure failures would be equally devastating. This legislation calls for a review of

MassDEP's ranking and scoring process and compels MassDEP to hold 2 stakeholder meetings to provide input.

- **REVISE THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE:** The Commonwealth needs to look closely at where it can reduce costs associated with the construction of water infrastructure. In December 2023, the Plumbing Board adopted the Uniform State Plumbing Code, 248 CMR 10.00 (hereafter referred to as Code). Section 10.10 requires "Unoccupied Structures (Pumping, Equipment, Sub-Stations, and Similar Facilities)" to have one accessible unisex/gender-neutral rest room within the facility. While a variance process exists, very few variances are being granted. This requirement is driving up the cost of construction and renovation for no additional benefit, as many of these structures are either adjacent to existing facilities or visited infrequently for short periods of time. We request that an exemption be granted in the Code to exclude water and wastewater unoccupied structures from requiring a bathroom, rather than making water and wastewater utilities go through some sort of variance or waiver process which has proven to be exceedingly difficult to achieve.

We look forward to working with the Committee to advance the legislative and policy fixes needed to ensure our communities are equipped to meet these immense challenges so they can continue to protect public health, public safety, and environmental protection, while providing the services necessary to support economic growth and maintain the overall quality of life we enjoy in the Commonwealth. To accomplish this goal, we respectfully ask that you issue a favorable report to **House Bill 1022/Senate Bill 563, An act relative to meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future.**

Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Jennifer Pederson at jpедerson@masswaterworks.org or 978-263-1388.

Sincerely,

**Abbie R. Goodman, Executive Director
American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts**

**Michael R. Cunningham, PE, Past-President
Boston Society of Civil Engineers**

**Paul S. Campbell, PE, PLS, President
Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers**

**Matthew A. Romero, Executive Director
MWRA Advisory Board**

**Philip D. Guerin, Executive Director
Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship**

John M. Digiacommo, PE, Director
Massachusetts Water Environment Association

Jennifer A. Pederson, Executive Director
Massachusetts Water Works Association

Joseph F. Nolan, Executive Director
Utility Contractors Association of New England

About our organizations:

American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA) is a business association of over 120 engineering, land surveying, architecture/engineering and related design firms employing over 7000 Massachusetts residents. Some firms are the international headquarters of large engineering firms, while others are small businesses or branch offices of national firms based elsewhere. Member firms design the environmental, transportation, building, educational, and recreation infrastructure of the state, which allows the residents of Massachusetts to be able to drink clean water, take advantage of new technologies, and travel safely and efficiently. ACEC/MA is a Member Organization of the American Council of Engineering Companies in Washington, DC, a federation of about 5000 engineering firms from across the nation. Contact: Abbie R. Goodman, Executive Director, agoodman@engineers.org

Boston Society of Civil Engineers (BSCES): Established in 1848, BSCES is the oldest engineering society in America with over 3,500 members working in the civil engineering and construction industry in Massachusetts. BSCES is one of the largest sections of the American Society of Civil Engineers, which has over 144,000 members worldwide and is recognized as the leading professional association for the stewardship of our nation's infrastructure. BSCES is dedicated to improving and maintaining roads, bridges, water/wastewater systems, schools, and other infrastructure that contribute to the state's economic vitality and quality of life. Contact: bsces@engineers.org

MWRA Advisory Board: For forty years, the Advisory Board for MWRA Communities has worked diligently to advocate for MWRA ratepayers and communities. From continuous in-depth review of the Authority's financials, to shaping major capital project decisions saving millions of dollars, as well as recommending common sense approaches to MWRA policies and procedures, the Advisory Board views itself as a "constructive critic" helping the Authority to better achieve its core mission. Contact: Matthew A. Romero, Executive Director, matthew.romero@mwraadvisoryboard.com

Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers (MALSCE), promotes professional land surveying registration and provides professional development programs for surveyors, engineers, and related professionals throughout the state. We have over 600 individual members in five chapters throughout Massachusetts. MALSCE enhances the land surveying and engineering professions. Contact: malsce@engineers.org

Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA): MWWA is a non-profit organization of water supply professionals with more than 1,500 members throughout the Commonwealth. Our membership includes public water system operators, managers, consulting engineers and equipment manufacturers and vendors. Through education and advocacy, MWWA works to promote a safe and sufficient supply of drinking water for the Commonwealth's residents and businesses. Contact: Jennifer A. Pederson, Executive Director, jpедerson@masswaterworks.org

Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA): MAWEA is a professional, educational, and technical organization, made up of over 500 members, which promotes the protection and enhancement of our water environment, and the implementation of sound policy to achieve protection of our water resources. Contact: info@mawea.org

Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship (MCWRS): MCWRS is a leading voice for environmental, social, and fiscal responsibility in the Massachusetts water sector. We advocate for sensible solutions that protect the environment without bankrupting communities or competing with other municipal priorities and call for greater accountability from regulatory agencies and other stakeholders. We monitor policy, regulatory proposals, and actions that affect our members. Contact: Philip D. Guerin, Executive Director, info@mcwrs.org

Utility Contractors of New England (UCANE): Established in 1954, UCANE is comprised of over 250 major contractors and associated businesspeople who perform underground utility construction projects (water, sewer, electrical, gas, fiber optics, etc.) primarily in Massachusetts and throughout New England. Our membership is made up of both union and non-union companies ranging in size from small family-owned businesses to large corporations, as well as MBE, WBE and DBE firms. Contact: Joseph F. Nolan, Executive Director, jnolan@ucane.com



Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

Support HB 1022 / SB 563 An Act relative to meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future

Sponsored by Representatives Phillips, Kilcoyne, Kushmerek, and Giannino and Senator Cronin

ISSUE:

Massachusetts is facing a widening water infrastructure funding gap that threatens public health, economic growth, and quality of life. The state's water infrastructure—some of it dating back to the 1800s—is beyond its useful life. New regulatory mandates and contamination issues like Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are increasing costs. Funding is insufficient to meet our growing needs (estimated by the US Environmental Protection Agency at almost \$37B over the next 20 years). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided a much-needed influx of funding, but it accounts for only about 3% of what is needed, and the funding runs out at the end of 2026. The State Revolving Fund (SRF) process is highly competitive and has capacity constraints, leaving essential projects like pipe replacements without financing. Public Water Systems and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (wastewater) utilities are struggling to keep rates affordable for their customers while making the investments needed to renew their infrastructure and comply with regulatory requirements.

WHAT THESE BILLS WILL DO:

They seek to implement recommendations made by the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission in 2012 to move us toward closing the funding gap. The bill provides:

- **\$200 Million Annually for General Water Infrastructure Grants**
 - Supports “bread and butter” upgrades like main replacements and tank repairs
- **\$138 Million for the Clean Water Trust**
 - Expands the Trust’s ability to issue 0% loans and incentives to improve affordability
 - Helps meet regulatory mandates under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act
- **\$78.5 Million for Sewer Rate Relief Fund**
 - Helps utilities manage rising costs and protect ratepayers
- **\$375 Million for HousingWorks Infrastructure Grants**
 - Enables communities to build the infrastructure needed to unlock housing growth

- **\$2 Billion for MWRA Expansion**
 - Connects new communities to a clean, resilient water system
 - Prioritizes areas with PFAS contamination and housing development potential
- **\$10 Million for Regional Water Supply Access**
 - Assists communities dealing with contamination or supply stress to access regional systems
- **\$10 Million for Climate Resilience Planning**
 - Funds climate adaptation planning, as now required by some wastewater permits
- **\$200,000 for Biohub Research**
 - Supports science-based study of biosolids and PFAS to inform future disposal policy

KEY POINTS:

Public Health Priority

- Prepares systems to meet new and emerging federal and state regulations
- Helps avoid delays in critical compliance that could put residents at risk
- Targets PFAS contamination, lead service line replacement, and CSO elimination

Smart, Equitable Investment

- Prioritizes disadvantaged communities and affordable housing growth areas
- Creates an Interbasin Transfer Review Commission to review a 40-year-old law
- Forms a Water Infrastructure Efficiency Task Force to review regulatory hurdles, as well as costs/feasibility for complying with regulatory requirements.

Workforce Development

- Provides grants to vocational and community college programs
- Supports training, recruitment, and succession planning in the water sector
- Helps build a diverse pipeline of water professionals

Why Support H.1022?

- **Protects Public Health** – ensures safe drinking water for all residents and a clean environment
- **Reduces the Funding Gap** – targets grants where they're needed most
- **Supports Housing Development** – supports the infrastructure needed for smart growth
- **Builds Resilience** – helps communities prepare for climate and regulatory shifts
- **Strengthens Local Economies** – through job creation, ratepayer relief, and infrastructure readiness
- **Investing in water is investing in health, the environment, housing, jobs, and our future.**

ACTIONS REQUESTED:

We respectfully ask the legislature to support increased funding for water infrastructure. We request the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to advance this legislation (HB 1022/SB 563) and support its passage during the current legislative session.