

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

THE CUMBERLAND RIVER IN NASHVILLE. KEVIN RUCK



REAUTHORIZING THE CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUNDS (SRF)

The reauthorization of the State Revolving Funds presents an opportunity to strengthen a cornerstone of vital infrastructure investment — modernizing America’s water infrastructure for resilience, and economic growth.

The urgent need for reauthorization

Clean water is essential to both people and rivers. Yet across the country, aging infrastructure, extreme weather, and rising costs threaten safe drinking water and flood protection—especially in low-income, rural, and Tribal communities. The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are a proven tool that empowers states to invest in wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and nature-based solutions. Reauthorizing and strengthening the SRFs will ensure continued federal-state partnerships enhance clean water access, job creation, and effectively address community concerns.

PRIORITY NEEDS

- Increase federal investments in the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs
- Streamline access for small, rural, and low-income communities
- Support nature-based infrastructure to reduce flood risk and improve water quality
- Ensure transparency through public dashboards, universal applications, and performance tracking
- Advance PFAS remediation and encourage resilient infrastructure designs
- Strengthen Tribal access and technical assistance
- Modernize permitting and procurement to accelerate project delivery

RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase funding and flexibility

Boosting funding to \$10 billion for each of the SRFs will expand access to clean water, reduce pollution, and support thousands of infrastructure jobs across the country. Flexible financing empower states to meet local needs—from urban stormwater retrofits to rural septic upgrades. Congress should ensure states include federally eligible decentralized wastewater projects in funding opportunities, so communities can access the full range of solutions.

Expand access to level the playing field

Simplifying applications and offering technical assistance ensures that small towns, Tribes, and economically distressed communities can benefit from SRF investments. Focused reforms to level the playing field help close the infrastructure gap and promote water affordability.

HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP

By reauthorizing the State Revolving Funds and enacting key reforms, Congress can ensure the continuation and expansion of water infrastructure projects. These measures will protect river health and drinking water supplies, create jobs, stimulate local economies, and reduce flood damages. Your support is needed to modernize America's aging water systems and strengthen resilient communities for generations to come.

Invest in nature-based solutions

At least 25% of each state's capitalization grants should be dedicated to natural infrastructure—like wetlands, floodplains, and permeable surfaces. These resilience projects reduce flood risk, improves water quality, and protects drinking water supplies while delivering savings and co-benefits for people and rivers.

Accelerate project delivery

Congress should direct EPA and states to expedite SRF-funded project delivery, making permitting and procurement more efficient. To improve local projects, Congress should allow an additional 4% technical assistance set-aside for communities meeting certain criteria.



GRAND RIVER, MICHIGAN | BRIAN KELLY PHOTOGRAPHY



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American Rivers and its affiliate American Rivers Action Fund are championing a national effort to protect and restore all rivers, from remote mountain streams to urban waterways. Healthy rivers provide people and nature with clean, abundant water and natural habitat. For more than 50 years, our staff, supporters, and partners have shared a common belief: Life Depends on Rivers. AmericanRiversActionFund.org