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July 29, 2026

Mr. Lee Zeldin
Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Support for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency works to develop its fiscal year 2028 budget, I write to emphasize the critical importance of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—and, indeed, to states across the nation. For more than three decades, the SRF has served as the cornerstone of the state's Commonwealth's efforts to protect public health, safeguard our water resources, and modernize the drinking water and wastewater infrastructure that communities depend on every day.

Massachusetts has long demonstrated that federal investment through the SRF delivers measurable results. Since the program was established, the state has distributed more than \$10 billion in financing for hundreds of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects, serving 97 percent of Massachusetts residents. These investments have helped communities undertake projects that would otherwise be financially out of reach. Massachusetts' 2026 Intended Use Plans include more than \$1 billion in financing—supporting dozens of new construction projects and previously approved multi-year projects across the state.

The SRF supports a broad range of essential infrastructure projects that directly improve water quality and protect public health, helping communities meet both federal and state standards. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, with financing and fiscal administrative support from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, evaluates projects to prioritize for financing based on the severity of the public health or environmental problem being addressed and the effectiveness of the proposed solution—ensuring that federal investments are directed toward projects with the greatest public benefit.

The importance of the SRF has only grown as communities confront increasingly complex infrastructure challenges and address emerging contaminants. Across Massachusetts, municipalities are investing in advanced PFAS treatment systems to ensure safe drinking water, replacing lead service lines, updating aging wastewater treatment facilities, and undertaking multi-year combined sewer overflow separation projects that reduce pollution in rivers, streams, and coastal waters. These investments are often made to help communities comply with federal and state environmental requirements.

A few salient examples that demonstrate the importance of SRF investments include:

1. The Tri-Town Regional Water Treatment Plant, serving the towns of Braintree, Holbrook, and Randolph, used \$95 million in SRF financing to address PFAS contamination and decommission two aging treatment plants by regionalizing their infrastructure.
2. In New Bedford, \$50 million in SRF financing supported the removal and replacement of 5,000 lead service lines throughout the city's drinking water distribution system.
3. The City of Fitchburg addressed sewer separation projects that reduced nitrogen loading in the Nashua River, improved stormwater capacity, and reduced the impacts of sewage overflows with a \$45 million investment from the SRF.

Additionally, just last month, the City of Haverhill experienced a week-long sanitary sewer overflow event resulting from a failed force main associated with a wastewater treatment plant pump station. While the City raced to install a temporary system, each day 8 million gallons of untreated wastewater continued to pour into the Merrimack River, prompting temporary beach swimming and shellfish closures in surrounding communities. MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust are able to employ the SRF's flexibility to dedicate \$65 million in financing, secured by the city through the 2026 Clean Water Intended Use Plan, to rehabilitate the force main and pump station.

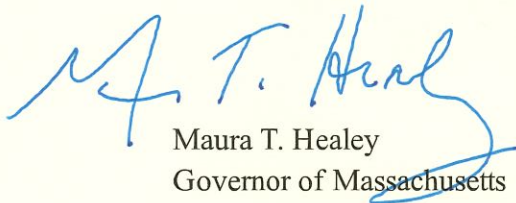
These investments reflect a broader reality facing communities throughout Massachusetts, alongside most other states. Many municipalities cannot finance these projects independently without placing an unsustainable burden on residents and local taxpayers. As you know, water and wastewater infrastructure projects routinely require investments ranging from several million dollars to well over \$100 million. Smaller communities and municipalities with aging infrastructure (common in a state with some of the nation's first drinking water and wastewater systems) are particularly dependent on the SRF's low-interest financing and principal forgiveness. Without the SRF, many communities would be forced to delay or abandon critical infrastructure investments, resulting in higher long-term costs, increased risks to public health, and reduced compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act.

The benefits of the SRF extend beyond environmental protection. These investments create construction and engineering jobs, strengthen local economies, improve resilience, and preserve the reliability of infrastructure that supports housing, economic development, and public health. Every federal dollar invested through the SRF generates lasting value by leveraging state and local investments.

Massachusetts is grateful for EPA's longstanding partnership in administering these programs and for EPA Region 1's hands-on assistance on time sensitive matters like those in Haverhill. I urge the EPA to continue robust federal capitalization of both the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which are essential to ensuring that communities across the state, and across the nation, can provide safe drinking water, protect water quality, and build resilient infrastructure for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued partnership in protecting our nation's water resources.

Sincerely,



Maura T. Healey
Governor of Massachusetts