America’s Water Infrastructure Act 2020 Highlights:

- The draft of America’s Water Infrastructure Act 2020 (AWIA 2020) provides roughly $17 billion in new federal authorizations to invest in our infrastructure for projects across the country.

- The draft bill cuts red tape by setting a two year goal for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) to complete its feasibility studies for potential projects, consistent with the standard set by President Trump.

- The draft bill authorizes feasibility studies, project modifications, and Army Corps Chief’s Reports. The draft bill will help deepen nationally significant ports, and maintain the navigability of inland waterways, supporting our nation’s global economic competiveness.

- The draft bill includes (subject to scoring and available offsets) reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund at increased levels for the first time in more than 30 years, and increases assistance to struggling communities, while maintaining a robust revolving loan fund.

- The draft bill adjusts the cost-share for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund for project construction costs and major rehabilitation of locks and dams.

- The draft bill will increase water storage in the West and build new flood management infrastructure in the Midwest. The draft will also fix aging dams and irrigation systems, and upgrade wastewater systems across the country, including those of Native American tribes.

- The draft bill creates a mechanism by which Army Corps will develop a list of approved projects which can be funded through the Congressional appropriations process.

- The draft bill allows the Army Corps to recommend funding for projects with lower benefit-to-cost ratios if the project serves a small, financially disadvantaged or rural community. The draft bill further assists small, rural and disadvantaged communities across the country with new set asides and cost share waivers in the Army Corps’ Continuing Authorities Program.

- The draft bill increases authorizations for technical assistance and training grant programs at the EPA for purposes of providing technical assistance to rural, small and tribal municipalities.
• The draft bill creates a small and medium-sized publicly-owned treatment works circuit rider program that will award grants to non-profits to specifically provide on-site technical experts to owners and operators of small and medium publicly-owned treatment works.

• The draft bill reauthorizes the highly successful Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency to finance shovel ready water infrastructure projects and streamline the WIFIA application process by requiring only one final rating opinion letter as opposed to the previous requirement of two letters.

• The draft bill contains a number of sections to fight invasive species through financial and technical assistance, research, innovation, and partnerships between the federal government and other entities.

• The draft bill reduces harmful air pollution emissions at ports and waste water treatment facilities through improved energy technologies and increased energy efficiency.

• The draft bill extends the authorization of the Indian Irrigation Fund to 2030.

**The Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 Highlights:**

• The total cost of the draft Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 is an estimated $2.5 billion in federal authorizations.

• This draft bill reauthorizes the Safe Drinking Water Act emergency fund to provide resources and technical assistance to communities facing drinking water emergencies that present substantial danger to health.

• The draft bill increases funding for the EPA’s Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program.

• It also codifies appropriations language that requires a state to use 20 percent of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds they receive to provide grants, no interest loans, forgiveness of loan principal or to buy, refinance or restructure debt.

• The draft bill also makes it simpler for schools and childcare programs to test for lead in their drinking water by empowering the local water utility to do testing.

• This draft bill authorizes $300 million in grants to assist in the remediation of emerging contaminants, with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

• The draft bill provides robust funding for grant programs to help water utilities invest in and deploy new and emerging, but proven, technology essential to improve water and energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and expanding ratepayer affordability. It also authorizes $15 million annually for the EPA’s Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Grant Programs.