

May 1, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide policy recommendations regarding the drafts of the *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020* and the *Drinking Water Infrastructure Act*. There is broad agreement that infrastructure investment is necessary for the safety and economic development of our country, but funding remains a challenge. This was true prior to the COVID-19 crisis, which has brought the need to restart our economy to be our next national priority after ensuring the health and safety of our citizens.

Rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure is a surefire way to promote resiliency and get Americans back to work. The most cost-effective way to rebuild infrastructure is to promote open competition. Open competition will remove regulatory barriers to materials selection, extending federal dollars and preventing price gouging or inflation. [Recent studies](#) have shown that cities can cut the costs of water infrastructure projects by almost one-third if they utilize open competition. Potential nationwide savings from open competition are in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Once we have recovered from COVID-19, opening the door at the start of a construction surge to the broadest possible range of materials (that meet standards) also means more flexibility in the market to meet shortages, match local supply and demand, and get our economy up and running as quickly as possible.

Currently a large number of municipalities have regulatory restrictions that greatly limit the types of materials that can be considered for infrastructure projects. By limiting choice and taking many potential solutions off the table, these regulations have increased costs for projects and blocked new and innovative materials from being considered. The result is an archaic system that props up material monopolies resulting in billions of dollars in wasted local, state and federal resources that could be put to better use.

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 water infrastructure legislation please include open competition requirements.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at jill_brubaker@americanchemistry.com, by phone at 202-441-1698 or by mail at the American Chemistry Council, 700 2nd Street, NE Washington D.C. 20002.

Sincerely,

Jill Brubaker, Director, Federal Affairs at the American Chemistry Council on behalf of:

American Chemistry Council

American Composites Manufacturers Association

Associated Builders and Contractors

International Association of Plastics Distribution

Leading Builders of America

National Association of Homebuilders

National Corrugated Steel Pipe Association

Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association

Plastics Industry Association

Plastics Pipe Institute

PVC Pipe Association

Vinyl Institute