



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL OFFICIALS

4755 East Philadelphia Street
Ontario, California – USA 91761-2816

Ph: 909.472.4217 Fax: 909.472.4241
<http://www.iapmo.org>

GP Russ Chaney, Chief Executive Officer

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Emergency Stimulus Funding to Supporting Water/Wastewater/Plumbing Industry

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Hon. Schumer and Hon. McCarthy:

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) is a nearly 100-year-old global trade association and a prominent, fervent voice for the plumbing industry. As Congress continues to consider policy proposals to include in the next stimulus package, we urge you to include measures that will continue to ensure access to clean drinking water and effective sanitation. We also strongly encourage you to provide assistance to associations and professional trade organizations [501(c)(6)s] that play an important role in determining how our nation's infrastructure comes together.

To ensure that vulnerable populations have access to life-saving water and sanitation services, the response from Washington in the stimulus bill should include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

- *Provide Capital Assistance to Associations and Professional Trade Organizations* — Associations and professional trade organizations [501(c)(6)s] that play important roles in the development of infrastructure have suffered major financial losses as a result of the pandemic. Millions of Americans rely upon these professional societies for their workforce training, business support, and the safety standards of medical, water and other life-saving products. Unfortunately, these are the exact same organizations that do not qualify for federal assistance under the recent stimulus packages. IAPMO joins with other associations in requesting \$25 billion in emergency funding to these professional societies so they can continue to support America's workforce and pursue their missions in public service.
- *Provide Drinking Water and Wastewater Assistance to Low-Income Households* — COVID-19 related legislation should include financial assistance to low-income and other adversely affected consumers to assist with payments for drinking water and wastewater expenses by authorizing \$1.5 billion for grants to states, territories and Native American tribes.
- *Ensure Home Water and Energy Service Continuity to Low-Income Households* — Congress should require that states and utilities receiving funds through stimulus legislation adopt or maintain in force policies to prevent the shutoff of electricity, home heating and cooling, and drinking and wastewater services to residential customers during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Additionally, as stimulus legislation continues to evolve, IAPMO supports the inclusion in future bills of critical water infrastructure issues. We support efforts to protect Americans' drinking water — particularly for vulnerable communities — by investing in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and other programs that will ensure clean drinking water in schools, day care centers and on Native American reservations. We also support providing funding to local communities dealing with PFAS contamination in the drinking water and requiring EPA to identify and assist these and other communities with effective decontamination techniques, including onsite water filtration systems. Other policies that IAPMO supports include:

- *Codifying a "Green Reserve" for Critical Energy-Efficiency, Water-Efficiency, and Green Infrastructure Projects* — Formally establish within the Clean Water Act a requirement that states utilize a minimum 15 percent of their annual Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) capitalization grants to invest in projects that increase energy and water efficiency, or that utilize natural or nature-based approaches to addressing local water quality challenges.
- *Encourage Utilities to Adopt Water- and Energy-Efficient Practices* — Direct utilities to study, evaluate, and to the extent practicable, implement water- and energy-efficient technologies, such as technologies that recapture and reuse energy produced from the treatment of wastewater (e.g. methane recapture).
- *Expand Alternative Water Source Projects* — Reauthorize federal investments in alternative water source projects to address critical water supply needs, especially in arid areas of the nation. A significant federal investment will allow states, communities, and utilities to construct innovative projects to reuse wastewater and stormwater resources to augment existing sources of water.
- *Expand Drinking Water Program Funding* — Extend and increase funding for programs to protect Americans' drinking water by investing \$22.9 billion over five years in the DWSRF, the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program, School and Child Care Program Lead Testing grants, Lead Drinking Fountain Replacement, Community Water System Risk and Resilience grants, and Public Water System Supervision grants to states.
- *Promote Water-Smart Buildings* — Provide \$15 million for a pilot program to promote energy efficient water distribution systems.

Together, these imperative policy solutions will provide critical assistance to families and communities in addressing the drinking water challenges they face. They will also benefit those in the plumbing industry who are on the front line in making sure these essential services stay operational.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of our country during this challenging time. If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Dain Hansen, executive vice president of government relations for IAPMO, at dain.hansen@iapmo.org or 202-445-7514.

Sincerely,



GP Russ Chaney
CEO