July 7, 2021

Senator Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to include the Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability Act (WATER Act) of 2021 (S. 916) in the infrastructure legislation being drafted by Congress.

From PFAS and lead contamination to leaky pipes, New York's aging water systems are in urgent need of repair. The WATER Act contains solutions to promote safe, affordable public water for New York and the entire nation.

Among its provisions that would benefit New York, the WATER Act would:

- Provide $35 billion a year for drinking water and wastewater improvements;
- Establish a permanent water trust fund with dedicated revenue;
- Prioritize disadvantaged communities with grants and additional support;
- Provide funding to promote municipalization of corporate-controlled water systems;
- Expand funding for technical assistance to small, rural and indigenous communities;
- Fund projects to address PFAS water contamination;
- Dedicate and increase grants for indigenous communities;
- Upgrade household wells and septic systems;
- Help replace lead service lines; and
- Provide more than $1 billion a year to update water infrastructure in public schools.

In New York alone, the WATER Act would provide roughly $2.4 billion towards our water needs each year, create nearly 40,000 jobs, and generate over $7 billion in economic output.

New York communities urgently need this support and funding now. Due to unaffordable bills, tens of thousands of customers are in millions of dollars of debt. PFAS contamination and lead pipes endanger the safety of our water. Our aging infrastructure is in desperate need of repair and replacement.

Water is one of our most basic necessities, and each year that we fail to meet the funding needs for our water systems only expands the magnitude of our water crisis. As the Senate Majority Leader, you will be highly influential in the infrastructure negotiations. We are relying on you to champion a bold, ambitious bill that will meet the needs of New York and the nation for safe, affordable, public drinking water.
Again, please fight to fully fund our water systems by including the WATER Act in the Senate’s infrastructure package.

Sincerely,

Mimi Bluestone  
350Brooklyn

George Povall  
All Our Energy

Rev. Dr. Alan Bentz-Letts  
Beloved Earth Community of The Riverside Church

Jennifer Scarlott  
Bronx Climate Justice North

Rick Sprout  
Broome Tioga Green Party

Jill Jedlicka  
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Kevin Quinn  
Center for Elder Law & Justice

Mary Smith  
Church Women United in New York State

Dave Denenberg  
Clean Air Water & Soil, Inc.

Holly Nowak  
Coalition for Economic Justice

B. Arrindell  
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Sr. Ann Gray, DW  
Daughters of Wisdom (US Province)

Julian Gonzalez  
Earthjustice

Rob Hayes  
Environmental Advocates NY

Charley Bowman  
Environmental Justice Taskforce of the WNY Peace Center

Eric Weltman  
Food & Water Watch

Sister Margaret Sikora  
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

Kristy Meyer  
Freshwater Future

Joseph Campbell  
Gas Free Seneca

Patti Wood  
Grassroots Environmental Education

Mark A. Dunlea  
Green Education and Legal Fund

Joseph Naham  
Green Party of Nassau County
Diane Brandli
GreeningUSA

Manna Jo Greene
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Wendy Seligson
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC

Arelis Figueroa
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Joe Sackman
Long Island Activists

Lisa Tyson
Long Island Progressive Coalition

Michaelangelo Pomarico
Mid Hudson Valley DSA

David Vassar
Morningside Gardens Green Committee for Environmental Sustainability

Hazel Dukes
NAACP New York State Conference

Guy Jacob
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club

Pete Sikora
New York Communities for Change

Glenn Jacob
New York Interfaith Power & Light

Anthony Rogers-Wright
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Elizabeth Moran
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Deborah Brown
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Peoples Climate Movement – NY
Richard Berkley  
**Public Utility Law Project**

Kartik Amarnath  
**PUSH Buffalo**

B. R. Lemonik  
**Putnam Progressives**

Patty Katz  
**Reach Out America**

Jeremy Cherson  
**Riverkeeper**

M Doretta Cornell  
**ROAR (Religious Organizations Along River)**

Grace Nichols  
**Save the Pine Bush**

Yvonne Taylor  
**Seneca Lake Guardian**

Halle Brenner  
**Show Up LI**

Sister Joan Agro  
**Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York**

Mazeda Uddin  
**South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training, Inc**

Michelle Santantonio  
**South Country Peace Group, Inc.**

Brien Weiner  
**South Shore Audubon Society**

Daniele Gerard  
**Three Parks Independent Democrats**

Jack Kanack  
**Weather Medic Inc**

Nada Khader  
**WESPAC Foundation, Inc.**

Terri Thal  
**West Branch Conservation Association**

Stephen C. Halpern  
**Western New York Law Center**