

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

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

George Povall
All Our Energy

Julian Gonzalez
Earthjustice

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

Rob Hayes
Environmental Advocates NY

Jennifer Scarlott
Bronx Climate Justice North

Charley Bowman
**Environmental Justice Taskforce
of the WNY Peace Center**

Rick Sprout
Broome Tioga Green Party

Eric Weltman
Food & Water Watch

Jill Jedlicka
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Sister Margaret Sikora
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

Kevin Quinn
Center for Elder Law & Justice

Kristy Meyer
Freshwater Future

Mary Smith
Church Women United in New York State

Joseph Campbell
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Dave Denenberg
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Patti Wood
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Joseph Naham
Green Party of Nassau County

Diane Brandli
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Manna Jo Greene
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Wendy Seligson
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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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Jonathan Bix
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Kim Konte
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Jennifer Scarlott
North Bronx Racial Justice

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Matt A Malina
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NYCD16 Indivisible

Kyle Belokopitsky
NYS Parent Teacher Association

Laurel Tumarkin
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
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