

Governor Kathy Hochul  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

**April 3rd, 2024**

Re: No Cuts to Clean Water Funding

**Dear Governor Hochul,**

As elected representatives from communities across our state, we, the undersigned members of Local Progress, urge the Governor to fully fund the **Clean Water Infrastructure Act** in this year's budget. We're requesting the full **\$500** million to meet existing infrastructure needs as well as an additional **\$100** million specifically allocated to help local communities replace aging lead pipes.

Local governments are on the front lines of aging and failing water infrastructure. City workers respond daily to water main breaks, leaking sewer pipes, and other emergencies that put public health at risk. These threats to clean water disproportionately harm our most vulnerable constituents, especially low-income communities and communities of color. We take our responsibility to protect clean water extremely seriously, but we cannot address the \$80 billion statewide need to fix our pipes on our own. Local governments simply do not have the financial resources to solve these problems alone.

We have been deeply grateful for the State Legislature's historic \$5 billion investment in the Clean Water Infrastructure Act since 2017. This funding has made a real difference in our communities, allowing us to upgrade treatment plants, combat sewer overflows, and much more without dramatically increasing our constituents' financial burdens. These improvements simply would not have been possible without the state's partnership.

Your executive budget proposed a 50% cut to clean water funding from \$500 million to \$250 million. This would significantly hinder our ability to guarantee New Yorkers their constitutional right to clean water for years to come. Our need to upgrade water infrastructure is growing, not shrinking. The Biden administration is currently finalizing new regulations to lower drinking water standards on toxic PFAS chemicals and require the replacement of 100% of our lead pipes. We cannot meet these critical clean water goals without state aid.

We are deeply grateful to members of the State Assembly and State Senate for including our funding requests in their One-House budget resolutions. These requests from our local representatives demonstrate how important the infrastructure needs are for our community and how timely these budget requests are.

If this funding cut goes through, over **225 shovel-ready projects** will be at risk. This includes several in our own communities, totaling over **\$40 million** in sound investments to create good jobs, upgrade our infrastructure, and help provide clean drinking water for New Yorkers across the state. As representatives from across New York, we're eager to prioritize these critical investments to revitalize our communities and ensure clean water for all New Yorkers.

**Sincerely,**

**Mary Lupien**, *Rochester City Council Member*

**Steve Noble**, *Mayor of Kingston*

**Sandy Nurse**, *New York City Council Member*

**Alexa Avilés**, *New York City Council Member*

**Shahana Hanif**, *New York City Council Member*

**Tiffany Cabán**, *New York City Council Member*

**Veronica Pillar**, *Tompkins County Legislator*

**Beau Harbin**, *Cortland County Legislator*

**Maureen Cunningham**, *Bethlehem City Council Member*