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October 18, 2016

The Honorable Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc., along with the Construction Advancement Institute of Westchester & Mid-Hudson Region, Inc., are publishing a report tomorrow on the clean water infrastructure needs for communities in Westchester County and the Hudson Valley. The Hudson River watershed and the Long Island Sound estuary are the defining natural resources of Westchester County and the Hudson Valley; the heartbeat of the region. From commerce to recreation to water use to its beauty, these waters are the centerpiece of life in the Hudson Valley and along the Westchester coastline of the Long Island Sound. However, there are additional functions they provide, especially when dealing with our wastewater and in the Hudson Valley when providing communities with drinking water. As aging infrastructure begins to fail, so does the quality of our waters. Investments are needed to modernize and repair the region's sewage treatment facilities and improvements need to be made to our drinking water systems to ensure the region's infrastructure is cleaning our waterways and purifying our drinking water.

The Construction Industry Council and the Construction Advancement Institute commend your leadership and the leadership of the State Legislature in providing Clean Water infrastructure grant funds to communities through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015. The appropriations made to this vital program and the financing provided by the NYS Environmental Facility Corporation have made it possible for communities to make infrastructure improvements in clean water projects throughout the region. In the report (attached for your review), it was found that the clean water grants allocated have allowed communities to move forward both in wastewater treatment plant and drinking water system capital improvements. These investments are vital to the environment and the economy of the region.

However, the report has also documented that the overall need in the region remains great and communities cannot take on this on-going challenge alone. Through survey results of communities as well as government studies and reports, it was found that over \$1 billion in further clean water infrastructure investments are needed over the next five years in this region alone. When taking into account state-wide needs, these numbers grow into the tens of billions of dollars. The attached report documents the current needs of the Hudson Valley and our hope is that these findings will help you and the Legislature continue with the necessary investments needed for this program.

Toward this effort and under the leadership of the CIC and the CAI, a partnership with members of the historic Clean Water/Jobs Coalition and the Clean Water Collaborative (a coalition of business,

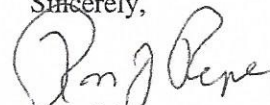
Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Clean Water  
October 18, 2016  
Page 2.

union and environmental leaders) have joined together to call for additional clean water grant funds for the region and the state-wide clean water infrastructure program. This partnership and clarion call for more grant funds is bringing together construction, union, public policy, business, municipal and environmental organizations to advocate for continuation and expansion of the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. As this program cleans our waters, it also boosts our economy by creating jobs. In 2008, the NYS Clean Water Collaborative cited that for every \$1 billion invested in clean water infrastructure systems, up to 47,500 jobs are created. Together, a cleaner environment, meaningful public works programs and greater employment are the true end results of this historic program.

*Invest in Clean Water/Invest in Jobs* will be the theme for this new campaign being launched to call for an **additional \$800 million** in clean water grant funds to be allocated state-wide for this program in the FY 2017/2018 budget. In addition, the Clean Water/Jobs campaign will call for the reauthorization of the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015 as a permanent state program. It is only through future budget allocations and the reauthorization of this legislation that we will be able to truly clean our waters, purify our drinking water and help our municipalities meet their infrastructure needs. In turn, we will create jobs and improve the quality of life for our region and the State of New York.

The CIC and the CAI look forward to working with your administration and the State Legislature to make these critical investments as we approach discussions surrounding the 2017/2018 New York State Budget. We again commend you for your leadership and welcome efforts to make clean water investments to communities in the Hudson Valley and across the State of New York a priority well into the future.

Sincerely,



Ross J. Pepe  
President – CIC  
Executive Director – CAI

cc: Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie  
State Senate Majority Leader John J. Flanagan  
NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos  
NYSEFC President Sabrina Ty  
CIC Board of Directors  
CAI Board of Directors  
BCA Board of Governors