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**Fact Sheet on the INVEST in America Act's
Drinking Water Infrastructure & Assistance Provisions**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

America's drinking water infrastructure is failing, and Congress must take bold action to deliver crucial drinking water improvements that communities all around the nation desperately need. The INVEST in America Act includes a total of \$117 billion in funding for drinking water infrastructure and assistance.

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates \$472.6 billion is needed to maintain and improve the nation's drinking water infrastructure over the next 20 years.
- Every day, leaking pipes lose an estimated 6 billion gallons of clean drinking water and more than 700 community water mains break.
- As many as 10 million lead service lines are currently in use, including an estimated 400,000 schools or childcare facilities with lead components.
- **The INVEST in America Act, invests \$105 billion over 10 years in drinking water infrastructure, including:**
 - \$53 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF);
 - \$45 billion to fully replace lead service lines; and
 - \$5 billion to provide assistance to systems with PFAS contamination.

Communities are underequipped and overwhelmed by dangerous contaminants. The INVEST in America Act strengthens drinking water standards and improves EPA's ability to set those standards.

- Since changes to standard setting in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996, EPA has failed to set new standards for several dangerous, emerging contaminants that can cause serious illness and even death.
- **The INVEST in America Act improves water quality and protects public health by —**
 - directing EPA to set health-protective national standards for PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, and microcystin toxin within two years; and
 - repealing section 1412(b)(6) of SDWA, which authorizes EPA to set national primary drinking water standards at levels that are weaker than what is feasible based on cost considerations.

Low-income families are struggling to make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they need help with their water bills to keep the water running.

- In 2020, water utilities projected a \$13.9 billion financial impact tied to COVID-19 on U.S. drinking water systems.
- **The INVEST in America Act promotes near-term customer debt relief by —**
 - authorizing \$4 billion to reduce or eliminate customer debt incurred since March 2020; and
 - prohibiting water systems receiving this funding from disconnecting the service of eligible residential customers as a result of non-payment for a five-year period.
- **The INVEST in America Act helps low-income families pay their water bills by —**
 - creating permanent assistance programs to help low-income customers pay their drinking water and wastewater bills. The program would be similar to the very successful Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps low-income customers pay their energy bills; and
 - authorizing \$4 billion for the Federal low-income drinking water assistance program and \$4 billion for the Federal low-income wastewater assistance program.

Safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, and the INVEST in America Act includes significant and meaningful investments and reform that will ensure every household has safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water.