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September 2, 2011

Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you consider the next steps to stimulate the economy, sifting through difficult choices amongst ever-deserving priorities, I respectfully offer a case to invest in our water and sewer infrastructures.

First, some perspective; as you will remember, the 1988 Presidential election was unfortunately defined by the "national disgrace" of Boston Harbor.

Over the next two decades, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) turned the national disgrace into an environmental success story. That success came with a huge price tag, along with compliance with other Clean Water Act requirements and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements, MWRA has spent more than \$7 billion, mostly borne by ratepayers living in the 60 served communities.

That is where the next chapter of the story starts. Even with this major investment of \$7 billion, there are still billions to be spent to meet environmental mandates and to ensure safe, drinkable water to our residents.

In the communities themselves, with all of their local infrastructure needs, there are also billions of dollars of projects that need to be addressed now and over the next decade. Nationally, it is fair to say, you can replace the "b" in billions with a "t" for trillions. The problem is, as the MWRA Advisory Board has penned, water and sewer infrastructure has become the "forgotten infrastructure."

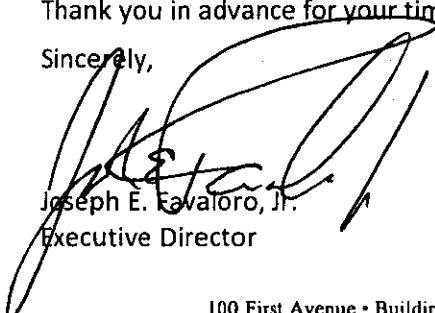
It is difficult to procure funding for pipes that cannot be seen. It is a lot easier to do a ribbon cutting for a new building or road rather than a water and sewer pipe that is 20 feet below ground. However, when something does go wrong, which has been happening more frequently, such as massive water breaks that shut down water to a region or wastewater plant contaminates into a river basin, the ramifications are enormous, both economically and environmentally.

As the financial need grows and the environmental requirements increase, funding sources for water and sewer infrastructure projects continue to dry up. Clean Water Act grants have been replaced with the Revolving Loan Fund, which continues to shrink due to budget cuts.

In the coming days/months, as you outline your stimulus and infrastructure programs, I implore you to invest in our forgotten infrastructure. They will not only stimulate the economy by providing jobs, they will also ensure a better environment and help guarantee that we have clean water for our children and their children to come.

Thank you in advance for your time, efforts and consideration.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Favaloro, Jr.  
Executive Director