



January 30, 2018

The Honorable Denny Heck
425 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Congressman Heck,

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 3906, the Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act, which establishes up to five nationwide centers of excellence, invests in community-based stormwater control projects, and promotes public-private partnerships in the design and construction of innovative stormwater control infrastructure. Well-maintained stormwater infrastructure systems are critical for public health, strong businesses, and clean waters and aquifers.

The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* gave the nation's wastewater infrastructure, which includes stormwater infrastructure, a grade of "D+." Despite increased efficiency methods and sustainable practices, there is a growing gap between the capital needed to maintain wastewater infrastructure and the actual investments made. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated that \$271 billion is needed for wastewater infrastructure over the next 25 years.

Shared stormwater and wastewater treatment systems often face capacity issues when there is a large influx of water; the resulting combined sewer overflows (CSOs) discharge untreated wastewater and stormwater, often containing agricultural runoff and toxic substances, directly into nearby bodies of water and are one of the leading sources of water pollution in the nation. As a growing number of Americans rely on centralized wastewater utilities, the occurrence of CSOs puts the public health of communities and local ecosystems at great risk. Innovative stormwater infrastructures systems are more important now than ever before.

As advocates of innovative and resilient infrastructure, ASCE supports this bill's efforts to promote the use of green stormwater infrastructure. Green infrastructure uses the natural environment to manage stormwater with practices such as permeable pavements, rain gardens, and rainwater harvesting systems. Green infrastructure systems provide co-benefits such as water quality improvement, aesthetic value to communities, and cost competitiveness with more gray forms of infrastructure.

America's stormwater infrastructure systems provide a critical service to the public, and as our nation struggles to meet communities' growing waste and stormwater demands, this legislation promotes much-needed innovative stormwater infrastructure system solutions. We thank you for your introduction of H.R. 3906, the Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act, and welcome the opportunity to work with you on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Pallasch", written in a cursive style.

Brian Pallasch
Managing Director, Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives