

Water Resources

Across the U.S. aging pipes result in sewage overflows and loss of drinking water, while our dams deteriorate and many threaten life and property. A first priority must be passing the Water Quality Investment Act and the Water Resources Development Act.

By failing to address the crisis facing our nation's dams, we are risking human and financial catastrophe in many communities.

- There are 13,991 high-hazard dams nationwide in need of repair because they pose a significant risk to nearby life and property. The problem is getting worse – since 2001, the number of high-hazard dams in need of repair has soared 479 percent. Yet our nation's investment in dams is nearly \$7.5 billion short of what's needed to ensure they remain safe and productive over the next five years.

Clean drinking water is an essential resource, yet every day much of it is at risk due to failing systems or aging, inefficient treatment facilities that cannot handle increased demand.

- Leaking pipes result in 7 billion gallons of wasted clean drinking water every day.
- In the past 50 years, water usage has increased by 207 percent while investment has fallen short of increased demand. Previous efforts at correcting this through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund and the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Funds have stalled in the U.S. Senate – and investment for them has not been reauthorized since 1994. Without reauthorization the investment shortfall could reach \$300 billion in 20 years.
- The problems facing America's drinking water supply are especially acute in smaller communities, which lack the funding, technology and expertise required to meet demand and comply with existing and future safeguards.

Clean water is increasingly at risk of becoming polluted, and potentially hazardous, due to inadequate wastewater treatment.

- An EPA estimate from 2004 found that 850 billion gallons of combined sewer overflows were discharged each year – and facilities have only continued to age and deteriorate since.
- Sanitary sewer overflows cause the release of as much as 10 billion gallons of raw sewage yearly.