Over the last year, you may have worried about your job, about your children’s education, about putting food on the table and finding toilet paper. But did you ever worry about turning on the faucet or flushing the toilet? You didn’t have to, because Vermont’s water and wastewater utilities continued providing safe drinking water and treating wastes.

And now we have the opportunity to invest in the state’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The American Rescue Plan Act will provide $1 billion to the state of Vermont plus $198 million to cities and towns. This is funding that can be used to protect public health, strengthen local economies, and preserve the environment through investments in water and sewer infrastructure.

DESCRIBE YOUR SYSTEM, ITS AGE, NEEDED REPAIRS/UPGRADES, AND ESTIMATED COSTS IF AVAILABLE

And the problem is not limited to our community. The most recent Infrastructure Report Card from the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Vermont’s wastewater infrastructure a D+, while drinking water received a C-. That translates to somewhere between poor and mediocre.

How important is modern water infrastructure? Ask the people of Texas how they fared without drinking water during the Valentine’s Day winter storm. Ask the residents of Flint, Michigan how they felt upon learning that their families had been drinking lead-contaminated water for years. Ask yourself whether you want this to happen in Vermont.

Improved water services will provide the foundation for communities’ economic recovery, for revitalizing downtowns and developing affordable housing, and for protecting the environment. Studies have shown that every dollar spent on water quality infrastructure returns $2.95 dollars to the local economy. Using American Rescue Plan funds for this work means that water rates won’t increase for our customers. We have the opportunity now to protecting public health and the environment for years to come.

YOUR NAME

YOUR JOB TITLE  
YOUR SYSTEM