



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**

**James L. Oberstar**  
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

**John L. Mica**  
Ranking Republican Member

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff  
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

November 17, 2009

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable Mike Beebe  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Beebe:

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is committed to ensuring that funds provided pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) (Recovery Act) are invested quickly, efficiently, and in harmony with the job-creating purposes of the Act. Throughout development of the Recovery Act, we emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability and ensured that the transportation and infrastructure provisions are subject to the most rigorous transparency and accountability requirements of the Act.<sup>1</sup>

Over the past nine months, many States have moved forward aggressively to use the funds provided under the Recovery Act for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) projects to create and sustain family-wage jobs, contribute to our nation's long-term economic growth, and help the United States recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

***Regrettably, Arkansas is not among these States. Based on the State progress reports submitted to the Committee in October 2009, Arkansas is falling far behind other States in putting to work its wastewater infrastructure Recovery Act funds. According to submissions received from all States and the District of Columbia, your State, along with five other States and the District of Columbia, ranks last of all States,<sup>2</sup> based on an analysis of the percentage of wastewater infrastructure Recovery Act funds put out to bid, under contract, and underway.<sup>3</sup> As of September 30, Arkansas has put out to bid, signed contracts for, and begun construction on zero projects.***

<sup>1</sup> See P.L. 111-5, § 1201. In addition to the statutory reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, the Committee has requested and received transparency and accountability information on implementation of the transportation and infrastructure provisions of the Recovery Act from Federal agencies, States, metropolitan planning organizations, and public transit agencies.

<sup>2</sup> These rankings include the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The rankings do not include the Territories.

<sup>3</sup> According to the State's submission, as of September 30, 2009, zero percent of Arkansas's Recovery Act funds for Clean Water SRF projects are out to bid, under contract, or underway. Nationally, 47.9 percent of Recovery Act funds

The Honorable Mike Beebe  
November 17, 2009  
Page 2

*We strongly urge you to refocus your efforts to implement the Recovery Act and use the available funds to create and sustain family-wage jobs. These jobs are critical to Arkansas' and the nation's long-term economic growth.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Oberstar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Oberstar, M.C.  
Chairman

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for Clean Water SRF projects are out to bid, 30.2 percent of funds are under contract, and 23 percent of funds are underway.