



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

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

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

November 17, 2009

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 316
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Fenty:

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.¹

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, the District of Columbia is not among these States. Based on the State progress reports submitted to the Committee in October 2009, the District of Columbia 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, the District of Columbia, along with six States, ranks last of all States,² based on an analysis of the percentage of wastewater infrastructure Recovery Act funds put out to bid, under contract, and underway.³ As of September 30, the District of Columbia has put out to bid, signed contracts for, and begun construction on zero projects.

¹ 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. Those recipients have reported regularly to the Committee.

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

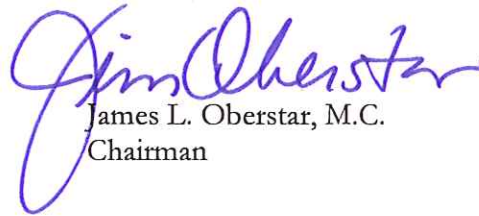
³ According to the State's submission, as of September 30, 2009, zero percent of the District of Columbia's Recovery Act funds for Clean Water SRF projects are out to bid, are under contract, or are underway. Nationally, 47.9 percent of

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty
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 the District of Columbia's and the nation's long-term economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman