



# City of Rochester

City Hall Room 308A, 30 Church Street  
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www.cityofrochester.gov



Robert J. Duffy  
Mayor

November 23, 2009

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
United States House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter: *Louise*

The City of Rochester respectfully requests a \$15 million authorization for drinking water and water supply infrastructure improvements in the upcoming reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

Since the late 1800s, two small Finger Lakes have formed the backbone of the City of Rochester's water supply. The water from these lakes is treated at the Hemlock Lake Water Treatment Plant and then conveyed through a series of large diameter pipes (or conduits) from the filtration plant to two distributing reservoirs at Highland and Cobbs Hill Parks. Many of these conduits are more than 130 years old in serious need of repair and rehabilitation.

The City has developed its Conduit Modernization Program to maintain or improve the integrity of its upland conduit system through the application of cathodic protection, the installation of new valves and interconnections between parallel conduits, and selective pipeline rehabilitation or replacement. Federal funding is needed to address cathodic protection, install new valves, and rehabilitate or replace pipelines along the City's conduit system, some of which is over 130 years old.

In addition, in January 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2), which imposes additional requirements for uncovered treated water storage facilities. The total cost for the City of Rochester to meet the new drinking water regulation is estimated to be between \$22 million and \$36 million. Implementation will require the City to install a floating cover on Rush Reservoir and install Ultraviolet Disinfection treatment devices on the outlets of both Cobbs Hill and Highland Reservoirs. Without federal assistance, the City will have to significantly raise water rates and place an undue burden on the citizens of the Rochester area, who are already struggling with the impacts of a weak economy.

To this end, the City of Rochester requests an authorization of \$15 million under Section 219 WRDA to (1) rehabilitate the City's aging supply infrastructure; and (2) install reservoir covers and upgraded treatment systems to protect the City's three drinking water reservoirs, as required by new regulations under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the City of Rochester's federal priorities. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Duffy  
Mayor

