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May 17, 2023

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Rep. Melanie Sachs, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs
Maine State Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Letter of Support of the Governor's Change Package Part MMMM funding for water and
wastewater infrastructure investments

Dear Sen. Rotundo, Rep. Sachs, and Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee:

For nearly a decade, funds from the Liquor Operations Fund provided the State match for federal money, providing returns of \$5 of federal funds for every \$1 of state funds. This program leveraged tens of millions of dollars each year for the State's water and wastewater utilities. With the repeal of this "cascade" of funds for water and wastewater, the State threatens to undo years of significant progress against the ongoing water and wastewater crisis.

Lead service lines, deteriorating water and sewer mains and PFAS in source water and sludge are pressing public health issues that need the State's attention. Ensuring State funds are available to leverage the available Federal funds at the aforementioned 5 to 1 ratio is just good common sense.

These funds enable lower rate loans and partial forgiveness for communities that desperately need the funds to address aging infrastructure, the increasingly stringent public health goals and the emerging PFAS crisis. We strongly urge the Committee to support Part MMMM of the Change Package so the State of Maine can leverage the federal funds to support the needs of the public water and wastewater utilities that desperately need these funds.

If you have further questions, please feel free to call or email cwdouglas@btwater.org.

Very truly yours,

Craig W. Douglas, PE
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