

July 13, 2022

Governor Charlie Baker's Office of Constituent Services
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

We, The Board of Water Commissioners for the Town of West Bridgewater, write this letter to humbly request that you or your designee apply for the EPA's Emerging Contaminants (EC) in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (SDC) Grant announced on June 15, 2022 on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Should the state receive these grant funds, we ask that you consider allocating a portion of the funds to the Town of West Bridgewater to support our water treatment project to address PFAS, iron, manganese and other emerging contaminants in our small community's drinking water and enhance our ability to increase the energy efficiency of our water treatment systems.

As part of the government effort to confront PFAS pollution, the EPA has invited states to apply for up to \$5 billion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant funding over 5 years to address testing and remediation of PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, specifically in small or disadvantaged communities. To be considered for these grant funds, a Letter of Intent (LOI) must be sent by your office, the director of the designated agency, or other authorized official by email to WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov no later than August 15, 2022.

The Town of West Bridgewater meets the definition of a small community, having a population of less than 10,000 residents. Of our total population of 7,668, 2,132 (28%) are over the age of 60 and 1,084 (14%) are over the age of 70. Many of these residents are on fixed incomes and already struggling to keep up with unprecedented inflation. The estimated cost of the water treatment project required to adequately treat PFAS, iron, manganese and other emerging contaminants is \$10-12 million. With only approximately 2,654 water users, many West Bridgewater residents will be significantly burdened by incurring the debt sufficient to finance these projects without State and Federal aid like the funds provided by this EPA grant.

We have attached copies of the EPA's Emerging Contaminants (EC) in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (SDC) Grant for your convenience. The Board of Water Commissioners of West Bridgewater is eager to partner with you to protect our community's essential access to clean and safe drinking water in ways that are both financially and environmentally sustainable. Thank you in advance for your time and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Richard Krugger
Chairman



Arthur Cabral
Clerk



Dylan Cragin
Member