SAMPLE LETTER (Please use your official letterhead)

Dear Representative:

The **(Town of, Village of, or City of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)** is writing today in support of S3292/A3907 to create the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program known as SWAP.

We wish to thank you for the support of capital funding for water infrastructure in the FY2017 budget that is essential to address capital projects, replacement and upgrading critical infrastructure. While these programs are necessary and essential tools for replacing and building new infrastructure, they do not address the underlying issue of increasing maintenance requirements and operating expenses.

Insufficient Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding is a major contributor to our infrastructure issues. Years of unavoidable deferring maintenance of critical infrastructure due to insufficient savings and inability to apply for government funding are just some of the reasons that have led to insufficient O&M funding.

There have been calls for a more permanent source of funding for our infrastructure, one that addresses and supports O&M activities. The SWAP is designed to provide municipalities with water, sewer and storm water infrastructure, an annual supplemental funding stream to support operation and maintenance activities. Just like the successful Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), municipalities would know what their annual SWAP allotment would be. This would afford us the opportunity to perform maintenance and/or replacement, which can be performed by our municipal staff. These would be smaller projects such as equipment replacements, manhole rehabilitation or water line replacement. The long-term sustainability of the systems would improve through the increased operation and maintenance funding and rates could stabilize and remain affordable.

Some of the infrastructure in New York dates back over 100 years and the interconnectivity of water means that if the infrastructure fails in one location, many cities, towns and villages will also be affected. For these reasons, the **(Village of, City of, or Town of)** supports S3292/A3907 to develop a dedicated funding program to distribute funds annually to municipalities to ensure the integrity and reliance of municipal water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure and we respectfully urge your support of this legislation.