

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a grant program for improving infrastructure asset management by small public water systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a grant program for improving infrastructure asset management by small public water systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Assuring Quality
5 Water Infrastructure Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE FOR SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.**

3 Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
4 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 1459E. INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT AS-**
7 **SISTANCE FOR SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYS-**
8 **TEMS.**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
11 tity’ means—

12 “(A) a unit of local government;

13 “(B) a public corporation established by a
14 unit of local government to provide water serv-
15 ice; or

16 “(C) a nonprofit corporation, public trust,
17 or cooperative association that owns or operates
18 a public water system.

19 “(2) INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT.—

20 The term ‘infrastructure asset management’ means
21 concepts, tools, and techniques that are intended to
22 improve the operation of a small system through the
23 identification and prevention of potable water loss
24 due to leaks, breaks, and other metering or infra-
25 structure failures.

1 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
2 the grant program established under subsection (b).

3 “(4) SMALL SYSTEM.—The term ‘small system’
4 means a public water system that—

5 “(A) serves fewer than 10,000 people; and

6 “(B) is owned or operated by—

7 “(i) a unit of local government;

8 “(ii) a public corporation;

9 “(iii) a nonprofit corporation;

10 “(iv) a public trust; or

11 “(v) a cooperative association.

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall es-
13 tablish a program to award grants to eligible entities for
14 the purpose of improving infrastructure asset management
15 for 1 or more small systems.

16 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
17 under the program, an eligible entity shall submit to the
18 Administrator an application at such time, in such man-
19 ner, and containing such information as the Administrator
20 may require, including—

21 “(1) a proposal of the project to be carried out
22 using grant funds under the program;

23 “(2) documentation prepared by the eligible en-
24 tity describing the deficiencies in infrastructure

1 asset management of 1 or more small systems that
2 are to be addressed through the proposed project;

3 “(3) a description of how the proposed project
4 will improve infrastructure asset management for 1
5 or more small systems;

6 “(4) a description of how the improvements de-
7 scribed in paragraph (3) will be maintained beyond
8 the life of the proposed project, including a plan to
9 maintain and update any asset data collected as a
10 result of the proposed project;

11 “(5) a copy of a written agreement between the
12 eligible entity and the State within which the eligible
13 entity is located in which the eligible entity agrees
14 to provide a copy of any data collected under the
15 proposed project to the State agency administering
16 the State drinking water treatment revolving loan
17 fund of the State established under section 1452, or
18 a designee; and

19 “(6) any additional information the Adminis-
20 trator may require.

21 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
22 a grant under the program shall use the grant funds to
23 carry out projects that improve infrastructure asset man-
24 agement for 1 or more small systems through—

1 “(1) the development of a detailed asset inven-
2 tory, which may include drinking water sources,
3 wells, storage, valves, treatment systems, distribu-
4 tion lines, hydrants, pumps, controls, and other es-
5 sential infrastructure;

6 “(2) the development of an infrastructure asset
7 map, including a map that uses technology such
8 as—

9 “(A) geographic information system soft-
10 ware; and

11 “(B) global positioning system software;

12 “(3) the deployment of leak detection tech-
13 nology;

14 “(4) the deployment of metering technology;

15 “(5) training in asset management concepts,
16 tools, and techniques of appropriate staff employed
17 by—

18 “(A) the eligible entity; or

19 “(B) the small systems for which the grant
20 was received; and

21 “(6) the development or deployment of other
22 concepts, tools, or techniques that the Administrator
23 may determine to be appropriate under the program.

1 “(e) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of a project
2 carried out using a grant under the program shall not ex-
3 ceed 75 percent of the total cost of the project.

4 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
6 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.