



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**Pat Quinn**  
GOVERNOR

October 18, 2012

Dear Illinois Communities:

The health and safety of our residents, as well as job creation, have been pillars of my administration. That is why I am pleased to announce – and invite your community to apply for – new loan funding that is being made available to local governments for waste water and drinking water projects. These projects are invaluable for the health of our residents and communities and will create thousands of jobs.

Illinois must begin making vital investments in our waste water and drinking water systems immediately to keep up with demand and maintain the safety of public water infrastructure. Currently, we have some of the greatest need for these projects in the country, and we cannot afford to wait any longer. That is why I have directed the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Finance Authority to expand the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program for projects that improve our water infrastructure.

The *Clean Water Initiative* will provide below-market interest rate loans to Illinois municipalities and local governments for waste water and drinking water projects, keeping Illinois' water safe and pure for its residents. By leveraging federal dollars matched with state funds, the SRF program is able to offer additional funding to local governments through low-cost loans for qualified water projects.

These loans are made with no new state dollars – funding for the new loans comes from current loan repayments. The SRF program is extremely successful – since inception in 1989, more than \$4 billion has been loaned to 472 local communities. It has achieved the highest bond rating and has never had a defaulted loan.

There are shovel-ready projects waiting for funding throughout the state. Funding these shovel-ready projects, as well as new projects, will provide a shot in the arm to our communities and create thousands of jobs for pipefitters, plumbers, engineers, carpenters, electricians and other trades. The \$1 billion *Clean Water Initiative* will create more than 28,000 jobs in local communities.

Billions of dollars are needed for poor or inadequate water systems. Without proper wastewater systems, our residents' health may be at risk, and the environmental impact cannot be measured. We invite leaders of local governments and water treatment districts to visit our website ([CleanWater.Illinois.gov](http://CleanWater.Illinois.gov)) and join us in partnership to move Illinois forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn  
Governor