

HOD Public Communication and Outreach for Member Associations Elevator Pitch

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Reliable access to clean, safe water is essential to our way of life!

- **Plentiful, predictable, and sustainable clean water has tremendous value!**
- **Safe and clean water is key to Public Health and protecting environmental gains:**
 - Advances in water and wastewater treatment are responsible for some of the greatest improvements in public health over the past century, including:
 - The virtual elimination of typhoid fever and cholera, and
 - A 74% reduction of the infant mortality rate in the USA
 - Since the enactment and implementation of the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA) the number of fishable and swimmable waterways in the USA has nearly doubled, whereas prior to that they were steadily declining.
- **Investing in clean water grows the USA economy and creates jobs**
 - Every \$1 invested in clean water infrastructure increases long term GDP by \$6.35, and provides \$23 in public health related benefits
 - Each new job created in clean water leads to 3.68 jobs in the national economy
- **The USA clean water infrastructure is failing**
 - Average age is 60-130 years old
 - The ASCE Committee on America's Infrastructure gives USA's aging clean water infrastructure a "D+" grade
 - The NY Times describes the deteriorating clean water infrastructure as a "ticking time bomb that is ready to go off."
- **What can be done?**
 - Urge our elected officials to refocus the nation's policy discussion toward the Value of Water and what's at stake for our clean water infrastructure, and
 - Provide significantly more investment to ensure access to safe and clean water for all Americans.
 - According to the USEPA, \$300 billion is needed in clean water infrastructure investment.

Create a Legacy for our Nation's Future!

References:

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