

BUSINESS TASK FORCE ON WATER POLICY



Water is among our most precious resources, one that is essential to health and human life. Businesses and communities depend on it to drive the American economy, and significant investments in water infrastructure are needed in the U.S. and around the world. While many organizations have worked over the years to advance water infrastructure investments, an integrated coalition led by businesses and other key water and finance sector partners is required.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched the Business Task Force on Water Policy to catalyze support for water infrastructure investments in the U.S. and elevate water in the national policy discussion. Business as usual and relying on government funding alone will not solve this fundamental challenge.

PRINCIPLES

Below are policy principles that will meet American businesses' water and wastewater infrastructure needs for generations to come and make the U.S. a leader in bringing clean water and sanitation to the world:

- **Increased and sustained funding and expanded opportunities for financing**—promoting increased federal, state, and local investments in infrastructure modernization and mobilizing private capital.
- **Regulatory flexibility and efficiency of service**—proposing commonsense, flexible policies to improve the enabling environment for businesses to continue creative and innovative approaches.
- **Resilience**—facilitating resilient infrastructure, including water and watershed management and flood control, through funding and policies to support predisaster mitigation and engaging experts and stakeholders.
- **Small communities and small business needs**—providing investments and policy solutions specifically focused on the needs of the agricultural sector, small communities, and small businesses, including improving access to water and sanitation in rural areas.
- **Technology innovation**—increasing innovation and its adoption by reducing barriers to implementation, promoting effective utility management, and helping communities achieve the scale and expertise necessary to deploy technology through additional technical assistance and cooperative arrangements. This effort also supports funding the creation of a National Water Infrastructure Test Bed Network (TBN), establishing a national program for collaborating and sharing best practices, and promoting exports of water technologies, products, and services.

These principles underscore the task force's interest in the One Water approach¹ to integrate and optimize the use of our finite drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater resources to create a more resilient water future.

¹ The One Water approach envisions managing all water in an integrated, inclusive, and sustainable manner to secure a bright, prosperous future for our children, our communities, and our country. One Water is a transformative approach to how we view, value, and manage water—from local communities to states, regions, and the national scale. http://uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/One%20Water%20for%20America%20Policy%20Framework%20Executive%20Summary_0.pdf



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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