



## **NATaT SUPPORTS CLEAN WATER TRUST FUND LEGISLATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 20, 2005

Contact: Allan Cagnoli  
202-624-3552

Washington, D.C. -- The National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT), representing over 55,000 local government officials in states from Connecticut to the Dakotas, supports the introduction of H.R. 4560, "The Clean Water Trust Act of 2005," to improve our Nation's wastewater treatment facilities, and commends House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman John J. Duncan (R-TN) for his introduction of it.

Towns and townships nationwide need additional funds to repair, replace and rehabilitate their aging and failing wastewater system pipes and plants and build new infrastructure to comply with increasingly complex regulations to protect public health and safeguard the environment. Studies by the EPA and other entities estimate a water infrastructure funding gap of between \$300 and \$500 billion over the next 20 years.

"Roads have a trust fund, airports have a trust fund, and water needs a trust fund," said NATaT Executive Director Allen R. "Mike" Frischkorn, Jr. "Our citizens want good roads, like good airports, but must have clean water to live. H.R 4560 will provide much needed help to rural and small communities with technical assistance and capitalized revolving loan funds."

"Local governments now shoulder over 93% of the nearly \$29 billion in annual costs for capital investment and operation of the nation's water infrastructure," continued Frishkorn. "This bill begins the much-needed dialogue on where localities will get the funds to accomplish the goal of preserving and improving the water we have today for the generations of tomorrow."

The Clean Water Trust Act of 2005 would address the EPA's water funding gap needs by creating a dedicated, deficit-neutral annual funding source of \$7.35 billion, saving nearly \$1.5 billion a year in General Fund Revenues.

NATaT lauds Chairman Duncan for his introduction of H.R. 4560 and strongly urges the U.S. Congress to consider and enact the Clean Water Trust Act of 2005 as quickly as possible.

###