



NEWS RELEASE

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Advocacy group issues analysis of state's water, wastewater infrastructure

Study is first of five looking at various infrastructure categories

Nashville – The Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance today issued a comprehensive analysis of Tennessee's water and wastewater infrastructure system. The study is the result of intensive research into the current state of Tennessee's drinking water and wastewater systems, and is intended to be used as an awareness-raising tool for elected officials and policy makers at the local, state and national levels.

TIA's *Tennessee Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Analysis* is the first in a series of six studies to be issued by the group in 2008. Each study is a comprehensive look at one component of the state's extensive infrastructure system. The forthcoming publications will cover air transportation, transit, navigable waterways, rail infrastructure and roads and bridges.

"Our organization is dedicated to raising awareness among our policy makers of the infrastructure issues that affect Tennessee's communities," said Pete DeLay, chairman of the Alliance. "With this publication, our leaders will have ample information at their fingertips with which to forge responsible water infrastructure policy."

TIA's Analysis lays out, in 41 pages of heavily footnoted documentation, the economic benefits of sufficient water and wastewater infrastructure, detailing its impact in areas such as manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and public health. Furthermore, TIA's publication details the specific water/wastewater infrastructure needs articulated by the state's cities and counties.

Finally, the report offers a “Gap Analysis,” highlighting the funding gap between identified water/wastewater infrastructure needs and actual funding commitments. Among other things, readers of the study will learn that

- “Funding levels for the Tennessee Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Appropriations dropped by 33 percent from the budget year 2004 to 2006.”
- “The combined federal funding for clean water and safe drinking water has dropped by nearly 70 percent since 1980.”
- There is a 45 percent gap between water and wastewater needs and appropriated funds.”

“In 2007, perhaps more than any year in recent memory, the need for access to water was highlighted by severe drought,” said DeLay. “After reading this study, there can be little doubt that now is the time for our policy makers to elevate maintenance and improvement of our water infrastructure system to the level of priority it deserves.”

TIA is distributing copies of its *Analysis* to the governor, all 132 members of the Tennessee General Assembly, the members of the state’s congressional delegation, and various local officials statewide. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of *Tennessee Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Analysis* can access the necessary information by visiting www.TNinfrastructure.org.

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The Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance is a not-for-profit association of Tennessee business and community leaders and organizations dedicated to educating policy makers on infrastructure issues and advocating for adequate and consistent funding for infrastructure maintenance and improvement. For more information, visit TIA’s website at <http://www.tninfrastructure.org>