

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change Chairman Paul D. Tonko**

*Markup of 3 Bills*

**June 23, 2021**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am excited that the Committee today is considering three bills that we advanced favorably by the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee last week.

America's drinking water systems are essential infrastructure, maybe the most essential of any public systems we support. And all across America, these systems are failing. Congress must include them in any infrastructure package we move in the coming weeks or months.

H.R. 3291, the AQUA Act, enhances water infrastructure, quality, safety and affordability, and delivers a needed lifeline for drinking water repairs and upgrades to state and local governments.

This bill reauthorizes the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and other essential EPA programs for 10 years.

It establishes a \$45 billion program to replace lead service lines and reforms the Safe Drinking Water Act to improve EPA's broken standard setting process.

H.R. 3293, the Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act, introduced by Reps. Blunt Rochester and Katko, addresses the growing challenge of water affordability for millions of Americans.

And H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act, works comprehensively to reduce Americans' exposure to dangerous PFAS chemicals whether through our air, water, or consumer products.

Despite promising initial steps from the Biden Administration, I fear EPA will not adequately address PFAS without clear, comprehensive directions from Congress.

My thanks to Representatives Dingell and Upton for their enduring leadership on this bill and commitment to addressing this dangerous class of forever chemicals.

I expect there will be several amendments offered today, and I remain interested in working with Members to further improve these bills, both today and before they come to the floor.

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With that, I encourage Members to support these bills, and I yield back.