

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of**

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change Chairman Paul D. Tonko

Hearing on “LIFT America: Revitalizing our Nation’s Infrastructure and Economy”

March 22, 2021

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The LIFT America Act includes important contributions from the Environment & Climate Change Subcommittee.

It reauthorizes several drinking water programs, including the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The SRF is funded at increasing levels and reaches \$5.5 billion annually.

This long overdue investment is responsive to EPA's 6th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey, which found over \$470 billion is needed to maintain the nation’s drinking water infrastructure over the next 20 years.

LIFT also authorizes \$22.5 billion for lead service line replacements through the SRF with priority given to systems serving disadvantaged communities.

The bill creates a new EPA grant program to reduce emissions from ports and reauthorizes EPA’s brownfields program at increasing levels, reaching \$550 million for fiscal year 2026.

These are critically needed infrastructure investments that will protect public health and our environment while creating jobs and supporting economic development.

I look forward to today’s hearing and our future efforts to invest in these programs. I yield back.