



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911  
Phone: 502.540.6000 | [LouisvilleMSD.org](http://LouisvilleMSD.org)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CONTACT:**

Sheryl Lauder  
[Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org](mailto:Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org)  
502.919.0325

# **Water industry leaders urge increased federal funding for infrastructure and ratepayer assistance**

LOUISVILLE, KY – Louisville MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott joined other water industry leaders in Washington this morning to urge increased federal funding for infrastructure improvement and helping low-income customers pay their water bills.

Parrott was part of a Beyond the Faucet panel discussion during the Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The panel was subtitled, Water Utilities as Champions of Economic Opportunity and Affordable Access.

He told the group, “By sharing insights and best practices, we aim to provide strategies to build more equitable and resilient communities. Together, we can pave the way for a future where clean and affordable water is accessible to all.”

Panel members called for renewed funding for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) that helped pay water bills at the height of the covid-19 pandemic. They also advocated for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that infused billions of dollars into utility and other public infrastructure projects to spur economic activity and make needed improvements during the covid downturn.

The session was moderated by Kishia Powell, General Manager of Washington’s WSSC Water. “LIHWAP not only supported families in keeping their water services during challenging times, but also allowed water sector utilities to keep paying wages, keep providing essential services, and just as important continuing infrastructure investment to protect the economic output of our communities,” Powell said.

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### **About MSD**

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization’s nearly 750 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro’s sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.