

To the Editor:

Re “Finding Out How Safe Your Water Is and Improving It if Needed” (“Toxic Waters” series, New York Times - Improving Water Quality: A Job for Congress, Sept. 13):

Your series does an important service, highlighting the dangers of contaminated water. While the Environmental Protection Agency must improve monitoring, Congress must also act to fix America’s deteriorating water infrastructure and protect people from dangerous pollutants.

The American Society of Civil Engineers, in its 2009 report card, gave a grade of D- to the nation’s water infrastructure. America’s water-infrastructure needs total more than \$25 billion a year, but Congress provides an average of just over \$2.3 billion.

Given this shortage, it is no wonder that we have corroded pipes bursting through the streets and contaminants entering our drinking water.

Congress needs a steady source of financing — a Water Trust Fund like the Highway Trust Fund — to protect Americans from these systemic water failures.

Earl Blumenauer

Washington, Sept. 14, 2009

The writer, an Oregon Democrat, is the author of [H.R. 3202](#) , the Water Protection and Reinvestment Act.