



December 7, 2016

RE: AMWA support for the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act”

Dear Representatives and Senators,

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) is proud to register its strong support for the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.” On behalf of the nation’s largest publicly owned drinking water systems, we urge passage of this important legislation before the end of the 114th Congress.

The WIIN Act includes numerous provisions that will protect public health and strengthen the nation’s drinking water infrastructure in the coming years. In particular, AMWA is pleased the final legislation endorses “robust funding” for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs; authorizes a new funding assistance program to help communities and low-income homeowners replace lead service lines; directs EPA to collaborate with state and local officials to develop a strategic plan for communicating information about lead in drinking water to the public; and improves the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program by making drought mitigation projects explicitly eligible for WIFIA loan assistance and providing all WIFIA loan recipients with the option to finance application fees charged by EPA. Additionally, AMWA appreciates that the WIIN Act expresses the sense of Congress that WIFIA should be initially appropriated at \$20 million – a funding level that was subsequently included as part of the FY17 continuing resolution that will enable the program to be up and running in the coming months.

Aside from these provisions, passage of the WIIN Act would return water resources legislation to a regular two-year reauthorization cycle – thus ensuring the advancement of critical water supply and navigational projects nationwide.

Again, AMWA supports the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act,” and urges passage of the legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei
Chief Executive Officer

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