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Ken Kirk

May 19, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
518 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick J Rahall II
2307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Boxer, Chairman Shuster, Senator Vitter and Representative Rahall:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), I commend your leadership in addressing our nation's clean water infrastructure funding needs as a component of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) Conference Report and I urge all members of Congress to support this important legislation.

The WRRDA Conference package demonstrates Congress's continued commitment to the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF), a critical source of financing for wastewater infrastructure investments. Communities nationwide face upwards of a \$500 billion investment shortfall between what is needed to ensure communities have access to clean water versus what is currently available. This legislation takes an important step forward in helping communities meet this investment shortfall.

The WRRDA package codifies several policies within the CWSRF for which NACWA has advocated for some time and that help communities meet their clean water investment goals more affordably while incentivizing important investments in innovative technology and sustainable water resources management. The following provisions in the CWSRF portion of the package are particularly critical to our members: 1) extending the SRF loan repayment periods to up to 30 years; 2) codifying additional subsidization provisions enabling economically distressed communities to receive more affordable financing; 3) incentivizing investments in energy efficiency, water efficiency and reuse, and sustainable infrastructure practices; 4) incentivizing partnerships between municipal wastewater utilities and upstream property owners to collaboratively tackle non-point source pollution and improve water quality, and 5) incentivizing wastewater utilities to undertake practices to ensure increased resiliency against man-made and/or natural disasters.

Over forty years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, clean water agencies across the country are undergoing a remarkable transformation from wastewater treatment plants to full-blown resource recovery agencies. These Utilities of the Future are pioneering new technologies and cutting-edge practices to manage valuable resources, spur economic development, create jobs, and improve the environment and public health. The WRRDA Conference Report recognizes this changing landscape by encouraging greater investment in more sustainable infrastructure to help communities better manage their clean water needs, while helping communities do so more affordably.

We urge the prompt passage of this landmark legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Ken Kirk
Executive Director

Cc: Members of Congress