



**American Water Works
Association**

Dedicated to the World's Most Important Resource™

Government Affairs Office
1300 Eye Street NW
Suite 701W
Washington, DC 20005-3314
T 202.628.8303
F 202.628.2846

December 7, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: AWWA support for the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act”

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) and its more than 4,000 member utilities across the nation support of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act and urge its swift passage. This important legislation will provide much-needed support for the repair and renewal of millions of miles of aging water infrastructure through funding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Additionally, the legislation includes additional funding to help communities deal with lead contamination in drinking water, provisions to help clarify public notification of lead hazards in drinking water, and improvements to the WIFIA program.

AWWA applauds the House and Senate for their work on this legislation, specifically:

- Authorizing \$20 million for the WIFIA program (Sec. 2202);
- Authorizing an additional \$100 million in funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program to help communities address lead or other contaminants in drinking water (Sec. 2201);
- Clarifying language regarding exceedances of lead action levels and the actions taken by federal, state, and local agencies in such instances (Sec. 2106); and
- Amending the WIFIA program to allow for the financing of fees related to the application process for a WIFIA loan (Sec. 5008).

Additionally, AWWA is heartened to see the Sense of Congress on appropriations levels (Sec. 2101) noting the need for robust funding for the DWSRF program, as well as language amending the WIFIA program to expand project eligibility to include projects that prevent, reduce, or mitigate the effects of drought (Sec. 5008).

As you know, water infrastructure protects public health and the environment, supports local and national economies, protects us from fires, creates jobs and brings a better quality of life. Supplying state and local water agencies with the support they need to ensure the availability of safe drinking water is vital to protecting public health, as well as to preventing emergencies related to contaminants in drinking water.

AWWA would be happy to discuss how to best address the water infrastructure needs of the nation. Please feel free to call me or Sean Garcia, AWWA Sr. Legislative Analyst, if you have any questions or need further information.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Tracy Mehan" followed by a stylized flourish.

G. Tracy Mehan
Deputy Executive Director
American Water Works Association