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July 26, 2017

The Honorable Elizabeth Esty
U.S. House of Representatives
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 1758 *The Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2017*

Dear Congresswoman Esty,

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) writes in support of H.R. 1758, the Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2017. The bipartisan legislation provides important updates to laws protecting our nation's groundwater resources. The Brownfields program is critical, not just for cleaning up the environment and protecting public health, but for providing jobs for thousands of Americans in urban and rural areas.

NGWA is a trade association and professional society of over 11,000 groundwater professionals across the country. NGWA members engage in brownfields clean-up projects, working to determine the presence and extent of groundwater contamination, develop remediation plans, as warranted, and oversee the necessary steps taken to restore the site to productive use.

H.R. 1758 provides important updates to the Brownfields program. By increasing funds for remediation grants and establishing multi-purpose grants, the legislation would make much-needed improvements to revitalize communities and spur economic development. While more flexibility on remediation decisions could be used, the advances in H.R. 1758, like expanding program eligibility, take important steps in modernizing the law.

Since the program's inception in 1995, EPA's Brownfields program has changed the way we look at contaminated sites, turning them into economic development engines in urban and rural communities. The work is far from complete, which is why advancing H.R. 1758 is so important. NGWA looks forward to working with you to see this legislation signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kevin McCray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "McCray" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin McCray, CAE
Chief Executive Office
National Ground Water Association

cc: Congressman John Katko, Congressman Peter DeFazio, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano