



WATERREUSE®

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Guy Carpenter

Carollo Engineers, AZ

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, , The Capitol
US Senate
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A , The Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: FY19 Federal Funding Priorities for the WaterReuse Association

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Leahy and Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the leading national association dedicated to advancing water reuse and on behalf of our members including municipalities and water-reuse related business, the WaterReuse Association (WRA) urges you to include robust funding for programs that support water reuse projects in the Congress's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations bills. With water reuse capacity projected to grow by 37% over the next decade, federal support for this innovative approach to water resource management is critical.

The Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program is the only federal program that provides funding specifically for water reuse projects. Title XVI is a successful federal cost-share program that since 1992 has provided \$692 million in direct spending while leveraging at least an additional \$2.07 billion of local investment to provide a sustainable long-term reliable supply of water for residents and businesses. Currently, seventeen communities in Arizona, California, Kansas, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas facing serious water supply challenges have been approved by Congress to receive nearly \$270 million in Title XVI funding to help them complete critical water recycling projects. In addition to these authorized projects, 41 newly approved water reuse projects are also eligible for Title XVI funding due to program revisions Congress enacted in the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. Despite the great need for this program, the President's FY19 budget request included a near elimination of the Title XVI program. If

Congress does not reject the Administration's drastic cuts to the program, ratepayers in these communities could face significant increases in project costs along with an increased risk of inadequate water supply. Therefore, WRA urges you to reject the Administration's proposed budget cuts to Title XVI and provide \$60 million for the program in FY19.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) are also critical financing resources for water reuse projects. The SRFs have been bedrock programs for supporting water infrastructure and water reuse projects are eligible for financing under the SRFs. To support much-needed investment in our water infrastructure and water reuse projects, WRA asks that you request \$2.8 billion for the CWSRF and \$1.8 billion for the DWSRF for FY19.

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) established in 2014 is another important federal program that helps support water reuse. WIFIA plays a supplemental role by providing low-cost loans that can attract private investment for water infrastructure including water reuse projects. In the first round of WIFIA financing, WRA was pleased that three water recycling projects were selected for financing under the program. We ask that you include the congressionally authorized amount of \$50 million for FY19.

Water reuse is an important tool in the toolbox for communities that face a myriad of water resource challenges from drought to nutrient management to aquifer depletion -- and communities across the country are incorporating it into their overall water management strategy. To support the adoption of reuse technologies by communities that need it, WRA asks that you include robust funding levels for Title XVI, the SRFs and for WIFIA in FY19 appropriations package.

Again, thank you for your support of water reuse and the WateReuse Association looks forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Patricia Sinicropi
Executive Director
WateReuse Association

cc: Sen. Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee
Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee
Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee



Sen. Tom Udall, Ranking Member, Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Rep. Mike Simpson, Chairman, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee

Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee

Rep. Ken Calvert, Chairman, Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Rep. Betty McCollum, Ranking Member, Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

