



WATERREUSE®

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February 23, 2018

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano:

The WaterReuse Association (WRA) is pleased to support the *Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act* and appreciates your commitment to and leadership of Congressional efforts to increase federal support for water reuse nationally.

Water reuse is becoming an increasingly important tool for communities to manage their diverse water management challenges because it provides a sustainable and reliable supply of water for a community's potable and non-potable water needs.

The Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI project is the only federal program that provides funding specifically for water reuse projects and has so far provided \$639 million in federal grant funding and leveraged an additional \$2.4 billion in non-federal funding for water recycling projects in the West. However, the need for additional support for investment in water reuse continues to grow nationally. Increasing authorization of the Title XVI competitive grant program created in the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act from \$50 million to \$500 million would provide significant help to communities throughout the West that are facing water supply challenges now.

WRA also appreciates and supports the reauthorization of significant funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Alternative Water Source Projects grant program. Increasingly, communities in non-Western states are experiencing water supply challenges due also to persistent drought conditions and increased population demand that together are placing stress on existing freshwater sources. In addition, communities in these wetter regions are incorporating decentralized reuse systems to reduce stress on collection systems during extreme wet weather events. Further, communities along the coast facing rising sea levels and salt water intrusion into groundwater supplies, are turning to water reuse to bolster existing freshwater supplies. Communities and states along the eastern seaboard from Florida to North Carolina and north to Maryland and New Jersey are incorporating water recycling strategies to ensure adequate potable water supplies are

available well into the future. Including a \$375 million authorization for the Alternative Water Source program provides support for communities turning to water reuse across the country.

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

