



November 13, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen,
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-305 The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-305 The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Nita Lowey,


We write to you in support of swift action by Congress to pass the FY2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill upon returning into session. The National Priorities Water Research Grant program is one of the few federal programs that sponsors extramural research to address the most pressing needs of the water sector. Since 2012, Congress has supported funding for the program and we were pleased to see the Committee Print (115-81) provided \$4.1 million for the grant program through Environmental Protection Agency's Science and Technology Account. Under a Continuing Resolution, the continued funding of this grant program is less certain.

The water sector is experiencing major transformations and capital expenditures are becoming paramount to the provision of safe and reliable water to consumers. The National Priorities Water Research grant program is one of the few federal programs that funds extramural research that informs cost-effective solutions and enhances the sector's understanding of how best to address major challenges. Some of the emerging research areas for wastewater and drinking water utilities include energy recovery, phosphorus recovery, nutrient recovery, intelligent water systems, waterborne pathogens in distribution systems, lead and copper management, perfluoroalkyl substances and other emerging contaminants, harmful algal blooms and cyanotoxins, and disinfection byproducts.

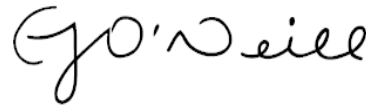
Our sector supports directly funding water research and development projects through The Water Research Foundation and launching water technology platforms through WRF and WEF's Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology (LIFT). For the past 5 years, the National Priorities Water Research grant program has helped to fill the nation's water research needs. Extramural research enables Federal agencies to focus research on the most pressing national needs of the water sector, and for the past two years, less than 1% of EPA's Science and Technology Account supports the National Priorities Water Research grant program and results in applied research for water utilities.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation. Passage of the FY 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill would provide certainty for important programs like the National Priorities Water Research Grant program.

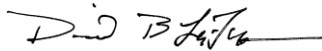
Sincerely,



Robert C. Renner
Co-Chief Executive Officer
The Water Research Foundation



Eileen J. O'Neill, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Water Environment Federation



David LaFrance
Chief Executive Officer
American Water Works Association



Adam Krantz
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water
Agencies



Diane VanDe Hei
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies



Robert F. Powelson
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Water Companies



Radhika Fox
Chief Executive Officer
US Water Alliance



Vanessa M. Leiby
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Patricia Sinicropi
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