



April 25, 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
212 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Reed
2437 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal and Representative Reed:

On behalf of the undersigned water utility and environmental organizations, we are pleased to express our support for H.R. 5596, the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2018. This legislation will address a critical need by helping communities across the country ensure their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure is able to withstand the variety of threats posed by changing hydrologic conditions and extreme weather.

NASA and NOAA recently announced that 2017 was Earth's third warmest year on record, with globally averaged temperatures measuring 1.51 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the 20th Century mean. In the United States, communities continued to face a range of extreme weather events, from severe storms in the East to a return of drought conditions in the West. These departures from historical hydrologic and weather conditions pose unique challenges to the nation's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, and H.R. 5596 responds by outlining a policy to help communities become more resilient while positioning themselves to continue providing affordable, quality water service into the coming decades.

The Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act will offer competitive matching funds to help communities undertake projects to adapt their water infrastructure to extreme weather events and the long-term impacts of changing hydrologic conditions. Eligible projects will include those that rebuild or relocate threatened water infrastructure, conserve water or increase efficiency in its use, preserve or improve water quality, and implement advanced treatment technologies such as water reuse and recycling.

The legislation encourages water systems to utilize innovative infrastructure approaches that will serve as models for other communities struggling with similar water management challenges. Local water utilities will also be able to use funding assistance

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to analyze future water resource challenges they will face, and identify effective response strategies. In sum, the legislation will encourage communities across the country to build resiliency into their infrastructure today, while helping ensure uninterrupted water and wastewater service for decades to come.

Again, we support H.R. 5596, the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act, as an important step in our nation's effort to adapt its critical infrastructure to extreme weather events and changing hydrologic conditions. We thank you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you toward the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Rivers
Association of California Water Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Association of Regional Water Organizations
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
US Water Alliance
Water Environment Federation
WaterReuse Association
Water Utility Climate Alliance