



# WATERREUSE®

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August 4, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Senate Environment and Public Works  
Committee  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
Senate Environment and Public Works  
Committee  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The WaterReuse Association (WRA) supports the Barrasso-Carper substitute amendment to H.R.8, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and urges the Senate to quickly pass this important legislation in order to advance America's water infrastructure, including water reuse infrastructure.

Investment in water reuse builds communities that are modern, sustainable, and stable—ready for families to flourish and businesses to grow. In some communities, recycled water can create a resilient and drought-proof water supply. In other communities, water recycling protects sensitive waterways and alleviates over-burdened centralized treatment facilities. Across the country, communities and businesses investing in water reuse are ensuring that residents have safe drinking water supplies, industries have water to expand and create jobs, farmers have water to grow food, our environment is protected, and our economic future remains strong and secure.

If enacted, several provisions contained in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 would enable greater adoption of water reuse by communities interested in pursuing this approach. These provisions include:

**Sec.1037. Local government water management plans.**

This section helps advance water reuse by aligning water resources development projects supported by the Army Corps of Engineers with local water management plans. Many local management plans include projects such as stormwater capture and reuse, water recycling, and aquifer recharge.

**Sec.5001. Stormwater infrastructure funding task force.**

Stormwater recycling is increasingly being adopted to augment water supplies and can be an effective tool for stormwater management. The task force report would be a good opportunity to examine the benefits of stormwater recycling infrastructure.

**Sec.5002. Reauthorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act.**

WIFIA is a critical financing tool for water infrastructure including water reuse infrastructure. In the first round of WIFIA financing, three of the twelve projects selected are water reuse projects. It is important to reauthorize WIFIA to continue to provide this low-cost financing tool for water recycling infrastructure.

**Sec.5005. Clean, safe, reliable water infrastructure.**

This section authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program, which identifies and promotes water efficient products through voluntary labeling. The amended language requires that water quality impacts of products be assessed before receiving the label. This would ensure that products receiving the WaterSense label would not inadvertently impact the advanced treatment processes used to recycle wastewater by introducing contaminants into effluent.

**Sec.5015. Sense of Congress relating to access to nonpotable water.**

A Sense of Congress encouraging the use of non-potable water recycling to address water demand challenges, particularly for industrial applications, would send an important signal to both the private and public sectors to consider a water recycling approach for their water supply needs.

**Sec.5016. Innovative financing for State loan funds.**

Allowing state infrastructure financing authorities access to low-interest loans through the WIFIA program to address State Revolving Fund backlogs would provide one more tool in the toolbox for communities to access financing needed to construct water reuse infrastructure.

**Sec.5017. Water infrastructure resiliency and sustainability.**

This section establishes an EPA grant program for resilient and sustainable water infrastructure. Water reuse provides a sustainable and secure supply of water and can help water systems adapt to changing hydrologic conditions. This grant program would help fund critical water reuse infrastructure for water resiliency and sustainability.

**Sec. 5020. Innovative Water Technology Grant Program.**

This section establishes a grant program for innovative water technology including water reuse or recycling and technologies to increase water supplies for two years at \$10 million annually.

**Sec. 5022. Bureau of Reclamation Role in WIFIA**

This section directs the EPA to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation to allow Reclamation recommended water recycling, aquifer recharger, or desalination projects to receive WIFIA loans through the EPA established WIFIA program.

As regions across the country face changing hydrologic conditions and water resource management challenges, water recycling will become an increasingly important tool to sustain communities. America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 contains key provisions that will help advance the adoption of water recycling nationwide and WRA urges Senate passage.

Sincerely,



Patricia Sinicropi  
Executive Director  
WaterReuse Association

