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October 28, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio Chairman House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Sam Graves Ranking Member House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Grace Napolitano Chairwoman House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

The Honorable Bruce Westerman Ranking Member House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Chairwoman Napolitano, Ranking Member Graves, and Ranking Member Westerman:

Thank you for hard work in developing H.R. 1497, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019. The updated version of the bill includes many critical provisions that will help communities across the country invest in innovative water management solutions, including water recycling.

In particular, we want to thank you for including reauthorization language for the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants, which authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to make competitive grants to state, interstate, and intrastate water resource development agencies to engineer, design, construct, and test alternative water source systems. We offer our strong support for reauthorizing this program.

We also thank you and offer our support for efforts to reauthorize other important programs in the bill, including the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program, among others.

Water reuse is growing in importance and in popularity across the country. In some communities, it is used to create a resilient and drought-proof water supply. In others, it protects sensitive waterways and alleviates over-burdened centralized treatment facilities. Industries are also increasingly using water recycling as a way to reduce their environmental footprint and meet sustainability goals.

H.R. 1497 offers communities the tools and resources that they need to invest in water recycling and better manage their water supplies to meet environmental, public health, and economic goals concurrently. Thank you again for moving this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sinicropi Executive Director

