

August 7, 2020

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The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Carper, Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Barrasso, Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Carper, and Ranking Member Graves:

On behalf of our hundreds of municipal agencies, businesses, and institutional members, we thank you for your commitment to passing water resources development legislation in 2020.

The two bills passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee—America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 and the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020—and the two bills passed by the House of Representatives—the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and the Moving Forward Act—pave the way to a final water infrastructure package that makes significant investments in key water recycling programs.

As you proceed to conference the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act (DWIA) of 2020, America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2020, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (H.R. 7575), and the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2), we urge you to include the following priorities in the conference agreement:

Reauthorization of the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants
(Section 2006 of AWIA; Section 22105 of H.R. 2)

Conference Recommendation: Senate recede

We thank the House and Senate Committees for including language to reauthorize the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants. More and more communities across the country are turning to water recycling to establish a safe, clean, sustainable water supply, to build local economies and create jobs, and to meet growing environmental and public health challenges. The Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants will ensure that communities in all 50 states can access water recycling tools and resources in order to solve local challenges.

The reauthorization language included in H.R. 2 and AWIA for the Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program is very similar, with two notable exceptions. First, the higher funding authorization provided in H.R. 2 would allow for more significant investments in water recycling projects across the country. Second, Section 22105(a)(1) of H.R. 2 modifies the underlying statute to ensure that Western projects are not excluded from the program simply because they have received project-planning support from the Bureau of Reclamation. This important modification is absent from the reauthorization language included in AWIA. Without the change included in H.R. 2, projects that have received funding for *planning* purposes through the Bureau of

Reclamation's Title XVI Program are not eligible to apply for Alternative Water Source Grant funding for *construction* activities. The House language does retain an eligibility limitation to prevent projects from receiving construction funding from both programs.

Interagency Working Group on Water Recycling
(Section 2022 of AWIA; Section 33701 of H.R. 2)

Conference Recommendation: Retain identical language

In February 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) after more than a year of collaboration with other federal agencies and a range of external stakeholders. Through this effort, EPA broke down silos within the federal bureaucracy, and secured tangible commitments from sister agencies to help advance sound policy in support of water recycling where appropriate. This EPA-led collaboration is effectively leveraging and coordinating available tools and resources throughout the federal family. The language included in H.R. 2 and AWIA establishes a more formal structure for engagement across federal agencies and with external stakeholders, and will ensure that this important work is built upon in the years ahead.

Support for Other Provisions

The WaterReuse Association supports the following provisions, and urges their inclusion in the final conference report:

- Creation of the Smart Water Infrastructure Investment Grants Program (Section 29001 of H.R. 2);
- Creation of a Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program (Section 2001 of AWIA and Section 22104 of H.R. 2);
- Reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program at no less than the levels provided for in Section 2016 of AWIA;
- Reauthorization of the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grant Program at no less than the levels provided for in Section 2007 of AWIA;
- Reauthorization of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program;
- Reauthorization and expansion of the Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program;
- Reauthorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program;
- Provision of funding to utilities to assist with remediation of contaminants of concern, including Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Patricia Sinicropi
Executive Director

