



# WATEREUSE®

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March 22, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of our hundreds of municipal agencies, businesses, and institutional members, we thank you for your commitment to developing strong, bipartisan water infrastructure legislation in 2021.

The WateReuse Association is a not-for-profit trade association for water utilities, businesses, industrial and commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations, and research entities that advocate for water recycling. WateReuse and its state and regional sections represent nearly 250 water utilities serving over 60 million customers, and over 200 businesses and organizations across the country.

WateReuse is pleased to support the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, which includes important policy changes and critical investments in water recycling programs. In particular, we thank you for reauthorizing the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants (Section 203) and directing the creation of an Interagency Working Group on Water Reuse (Section 218).

Through the Interagency Working Group, the Administration will break down traditional silos, leverage and coordinate resources throughout the federal family, and create a more formal structure for engaging external stakeholders. The Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants will ensure that communities in all 50 states can access water recycling tools and resources to solve complex local challenges, including critical water supply constraints.

As you proceed to markup, floor consideration, and conference, we look forward to working with you to advance and further improve this important legislation, including by expanding eligibility for the Alternative Water Sources Grants Pilot Program to include projects that have previously received funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program. We believe the current eligibility limitation for Alternative Water Source Grants is too broad; we recommend narrowing it slightly so that projects that have received Title XVI funding for research, planning, and design purposes in the past are not put at a disadvantage.

## **Support for Other Provisions**

In addition to Sections 203 and 218, the WaterReuse Association supports the following provisions, and urges their continued inclusion moving forward:

- Reauthorization of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (SEC. 102);
- Reauthorization of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk, Resiliency, and Sustainability Programs for communities of all sizes (SEC. 104 and SEC. 107)
- Reauthorization of the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grant Program (Section 204);
- Creation of the Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program (Section 205);
- Reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (Section 210);
- Reauthorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Sinicropi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Sinicropi  
Executive Director

