

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chair  
Senate Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

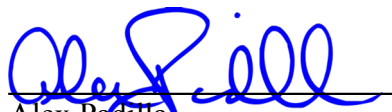
As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to request that you provide at least \$25 million for the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants authorized under Section 50203 of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)*.

Last year, Congress passed a transformational bipartisan infrastructure package that included the single largest investment in water that the federal government has ever made and authorized a competitive grant pilot program to support water resiliency in communities across the country. The Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants provides competitive grants to projects that support municipal, industrial, and agricultural water supplies by conserving, managing, reclaiming, or reusing water, wastewater, or stormwater or by treating wastewater or stormwater for groundwater recharge, potable reuse, or other purposes.

By investing in federal water recycling programs now, Congress can give communities in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico the tools and resources they need to prepare for and manage the impacts of the climate crisis, including drought, aquifer depletion, flooding, and land subsidence. Across the country, water, wastewater, and stormwater managers have shown that water recycling can be a central feature in innovative, integrated approaches to solving water management challenges.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act made a historic investment in the nation's water infrastructure. Funding the EPA's Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program will modernize U.S. water infrastructure to sustain local economies and strengthen the resiliency of our water supply across the country. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



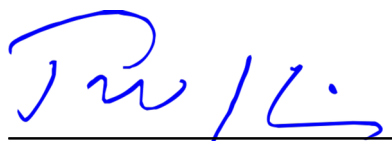
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



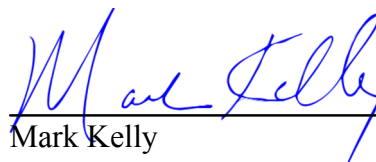
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



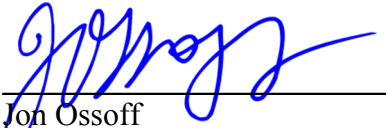
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

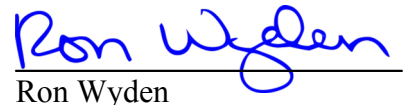


Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



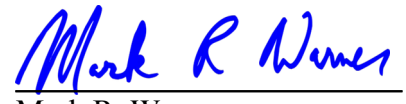
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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator