

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2023

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

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

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 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).

Two years ago, 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 the first nationwide 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,



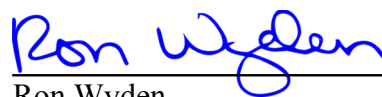
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



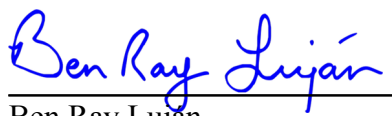
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Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator




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Tim Kaine
United States Senator



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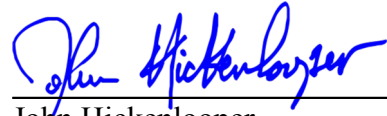
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