

LETTERHEAD

[DATE]

The Honorable [NAME OF MEMBER/S OF CONGRESS]

[United States House of Representatives OR United States Senate]

Dear [REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR LAST NAME],

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) recently released its version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026. Importantly, the bill reauthorizes the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants (33 U.S.C. 1300) for four years. The Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants is a competitive grants program through which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides cost share to state, interstate, and intrastate water resource development agencies to engineer, design, construct, and test alternative water source systems, including water reuse systems. The program helps ensure that communities in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico can access water recycling tools to solve local water challenges.

We strongly support reauthorizing this important program and commend the EPW Committee for its inclusion. However, by authorizing only \$5 million per year—as opposed to the \$25 million per year authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021—the EPW Committee’s bill limits Congress’ ability to grow the program in the coming years. **We therefore urge you to reauthorize the program at its previously authorized level of \$25 million per year.**

Congress provided \$2 million for the program in enacted FY 2026 appropriations legislation. The House Interior and Environment Appropriations bill for FY 2027 increases this amount to \$5 million, achieving the full authorization provided in the Senate WRDA bill. Without room to grow the program over time, EPA will be hamstrung in its ability to support the development of alternative, long-term water supplies across the country.

The Colorado River is experiencing record-low flows and severe, recurring drought. Recent projections show Lake Powell receiving just 13 percent of its average flows. Severe drought is a reality across the West, but also in “non-arid” regions of the country, including the Midwest, New England, and the Mid-Atlantic. The water supply problem is compounded by rapid economic and industrial development as well as continued population growth in many areas. As water supply and water quality challenges intensify, the nation must invest in water recycling to build long-term, reliable water supplies, limit surface water contamination, and support key business sectors, including the AI revolution, chip manufacturing, agriculture, and energy production. Investments in water recycling ensure reliable and resilient community water supplies, support economic development, and help protect our rivers, lakes, streams, aquifers and wetlands.

As the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee and Senate EPW Committee work to negotiate a final clean water and drinking water policy package this

year, we ask for your support in securing an authorized funding level of \$25 million per year for the Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program, Section 220 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1300).

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND AFFILIATION]