

DATE

The Honorable [NAME OF MEMBER OF CONGRESS]

[United States House of Representatives – OR- United States Senate]

Washington, D.C. ZIPCODE [20510 Senate / 20515 House]

Subject: Water Resources Development Act of 2016

Dear [Senator --- / Representative ---]

On behalf of [YOUR UTILITY/CITY], I am writing to urge your support for enacting a final Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) based on the Senate's approved bill when Congress returns in November. This important legislation contains critically important measures to help communities meet their safe and clean water goals.

In addition to authorizing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) projects, the overwhelmingly bipartisan Senate bill includes common sense reforms to the Clean Water Act (CWA) to address ratepayer affordability challenges through codification of Integrated Planning, revising affordability guidelines, and enabling communities greater time to meet stringent water quality standards. The proposed reforms strike a fair balance between ensuring our clean water goals of protecting public health and the environment while accommodate ratepayers' ability to pay for the necessary infrastructure. The proposed reforms will also enable communities to undertake innovative approaches to addressing clean water issues. [DESCRIBE HOW THESE MEASURES CAN HELP YOUR COMMUNITY]

The Senate package also takes important steps in support of clean and safe water infrastructure investment. EPA's quadrennial "needs surveys" for drinking water and wastewater treatment systems indicate that well over \$600 billion in additional spending will be needed over the next twenty years for water and wastewater treatment, with much of these costs related to wet weather controls. Several provisions in the Senate package authorize important financing approaches to help meet this need including a water trust fund to leverage private revenue for low-cost financing provided through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. The package additionally authorizes grant financing for communities struggling to reduce and/or eliminate sewer overflows. [DESCRIBE HOW THESE RESOURCES CAN HELP YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR STRUGGLE WITH CSO/SSO ABATEMENT]

Finally, the House and Senate bills facilitate collaboration on water resources management and deployment of innovative technology in several key ways. Both bills contain measures to encourage the ACOE to identify opportunities for supporting local water management goals when designing flood control projects. The Senate package authorizes several key investment programs to spur development and deployment of innovative technologies in clean water management. Both bills also contain measures to help communities achieve greater resiliency in the face of extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

I urge you to help enact a final WRDA 2016 package that adopts the measures discussed above and provides meaningful assistance to communities in achieving their clean water goals. Thank you, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions.

Sincerely,