[DATE], 2017

The Honorable [NAME]

U.S. House of Representatives OR U.S. Senate

[OFFICE ADDRESS – Optional]

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative OR Senator [NAME]:

[UTILITY NAME] serves [AREA] and consists of [INFORMATION SUCH AS MILES OF PIPE, NUMBER OF LIFT STATIONS, ETC.]. We have experienced significant problems in recent years due to wipes that are flushed into the sewer system. These wipes clog pumps and other wastewater treatment equipment, and must be physically removed by our workers, placing them at increased risk of injury and illness. Wipes also bond with fats, oils, and greases (FOG) to create masses called “fatbergs” that can clog pipes and lead to sewer overflows or backups. [ADD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY YOUR UTILITY]. These problems add to our costs because of the staff time required to unclog equipment, the damage caused to equipment, and disposal costs for the wipes. [ADD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT COSTS.] The costs are ultimately passed on to our customers in the form of higher rates for sewer service.

[UTILITY NAME] understands that the law passed by the District of Columbia, the *Nonwoven Disposable Products Act of 2016*, would require clear “Do Not Flush” labeling for non-flushable wipes and flushability standards for flushable wipes. Adding the clear labeling for non-flushable wipes would help inform and remind consumers that these products should not be flushed. Flushability standards would ensure that products labeled “flushable” would not contribute to problems in sewer systems. The law does not ban any product, but simply requires that wipes be labeled appropriately.

DC’s law is the first law in the country to address the expensive problems caused by wipes, and although it would only apply in DC, it will likely give U.S. wipe manufacturers the incentive to improve their products and labeling practices nationwide. Flushable wipes manufactured in Japan have been shown to break down quickly after flushing, but the wipes manufactured in the U.S. do not. The technology exists to manufacture truly flushable wipes, and U.S. manufacturers should adopt this technology.

[UTILITY NAME] asks that DC be allowed to protect its sewer system from the problems caused by wipes. The *Nonwoven Disposable Products Act of 2016* should remain in place and not be impacted by any language in the FY 2018 Appropriations package.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at [INSERT CONTACT INFO] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]