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February 28, 2018

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Ranking Member Betty McCollum House Appropriations Subcommittee Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), representing hundreds of public wastewater and stormwater treatment agencies around the nation, was pleased to see the recent passage of the bipartisan budget agreement and \$63 billion Fiscal Year 2018 increase in nondefense spending, facilitating progress towards completing the FY18 Appropriations process. We were also pleased with leadership's commitment under the budget agreement to dedicate \$20 billion to infrastructure. As the Subcommittee receives its final 302(b) allocation and finalizes FY18 Appropriations, I am writing to urge strong funding for clean water infrastructure and related programs.

As you know, the EPA estimates that our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure will require more than \$650 billion in investment over the next 20 years just to maintain current levels of service. The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and the Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) are helping address these needs by providing critical low-cost financing for drinking water and wastewater projects. We greatly appreciate the Subcommittee's attention each year to funding these programs, and respectfully urge that, in consideration of the increased allocations, the Subcommittee provide the strongest investment possible for the SRFs above the FY17 enacted level of \$2.3 billion, and fully fund WIFIA at its \$45 million FY18 authorization.



EPA's geographic watershed programs such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Long Island Sound and Chesapeake Bay also play a vital role in helping states and local communities protect water quality. NACWA is a strong supporter of these programs, which help utilities work to address nutrients and other impairments through partnerships with upstream landowners and other innovative approaches. Meanwhile, the EPA Office of Water's Water Security Division (WSD) provides valuable resources and support to help all drinking and clean water agencies prepare for natural and man-made threats. Finally, federal water research and technology development programs within a variety of agencies, including EPA, help drive innovation and address emerging challenges in water treatment and delivery. We urge robust funding for all of these critical programs.

Clean water investment helps provide all Americans with clean and safe water, repair our nation's infrastructure, expand critical water services, and create jobs and grow the economy. We appreciate your attention to clean water as your critical work to complete the FY18 Appropriations process advances.

As always, thank you for your time and consideration of these requests. Please do not hesitate to contact Kristina Surfus at ksurfus@nacwa.org or Jason Isakovic at jisakovic@nacwa.org to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Adam Krantz

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CEO