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**Adam Krantz**

August 19, 2016

The Honorable Ron Kind  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Reed  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2437 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kind and Representative Reed:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) which represents nearly 300 publicly-owned wastewater treatment works (POTWs) across the country, including utilities large and small in Wisconsin and New York, I am writing in support of H.R. 5489, the *Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Act*, which could increase the use of innovative nutrient management and biogas technologies and spur partnerships between farmers and clean water agencies to improve water quality.

As you know, many of the nation's waterways are impaired due to excessive loadings of nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients) caused by a variety of sources including agricultural operations, wastewater treatment, urban stormwater and air depositions. In order to address this challenge, many POTWs face increased treatment costs to reduce nutrients levels in discharged effluent. As regulated entities downstream of agricultural lands, many utilities are exploring partnerships with agricultural producers to install potentially lower-cost nutrient management options on the farm that could lead to watershed-wide load reductions. Through your legislation to make biogas systems and nutrient recovery technologies eligible for the 30 percent investment tax credit and permitting new clean renewable energy bonds for these types of property, we believe investment in these approaches will grow, leading to more opportunities for POTWs to work upstream with farmers on nutrient reduction initiatives.

Clean water agencies also invest in anaerobic digestion systems at their POTWs to manage wastewater treatment byproducts and generate heat, power, and/or recovered materials such as fertilizer. Like agricultural producers, clean water agencies could see greater opportunities as a result of this legislation to invest in these technologies which have high up-front costs but help reduce energy demand, manage nutrients, and reduce long-term ratepayer costs. These investments align with NACWA's *Utility of the Future* campaign by helping POTWs advance along the path toward the recovery of valuable resources throughout the treatment process.

NACWA Letter on H.R.5489

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For these reasons, NACWA strongly supports your bipartisan legislation. With many watersheds facing persistent water quality impairments due to nutrients, the time is ripe for encouraging investment in innovative technologies and approaches.

Thank you for championing this issue, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam Krantz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Adam Krantz  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies