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Adam Krantz

August 19, 2016

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown and Senator Roberts:

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 Ohio and Kansas, I am writing in support of S. 3248, the *Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Act of 2016*. This important legislation 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.

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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 black ink that reads "Adam Krantz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Adam Krantz
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies