

June 23, 2016

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

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Water Resources Development Act of 2016

Dear Senators Brown and Portman,

On April 28th the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported S.2848, the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016* on a near unanimous vote of 19-1 demonstrating that strong bipartisan support exists in the Senate for addressing our nation's water resource infrastructure. We believe it is critically important for the full Senate to consider this bill and urge you to support its consideration and passage.

In addition to authorizing critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) projects, this bipartisan package includes common sense reforms to the Clean Water Act (CWA) that save ratepayers millions of dollars, leverage the private marketplace for investments in water infrastructure, and strengthen tools to protect public health.

If enacted, S. 2848 will provide much needed relief to communities struggling to comply with unfunded federal mandates by ensuring clean water investments remain affordable to ratepayers and generate the greatest water quality gains at the lowest cost. The legislative package is especially valuable to communities like Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Toledo, Akron, Youngstown, Euclid, Lima, and those in Northeast Ohio, which are currently under federal consent decree to meet CWA requirements. Further, the bill includes authorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through Fiscal Year 2020 at \$300 million annually, a critical issue you have championed in Congress.

The bipartisan package also includes a range of provisions that address infrastructure investment, health, and safety issues of our drinking water and wastewater systems. Critically important are provisions to help communities struggling to ensure their drinking water supplies are not contaminated with lead. The bill also authorizes ACOE study activities on the Cincinnati riverfront.

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WRDA Support Letter – Sens. Brown and Portman

Communities in states like Ohio across the country from the Great Lakes to the West to the Southeast will directly benefit by enacting S. 2848 – we urge your support and its swift consideration by the full Senate. To that end, the following communities have joined in our request for your assistance with this very important initiative. We are happy to answer any specific questions you or your staff may have about how the legislation impacts us.

Sincerely,

Avon Lake Regional Water
City of Akron Water Reclamation Services
City of Canton Water Reclamation Services
City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities
Hamilton County Wastewater Treatment Authority
City of Lima Utilities Department
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
City of Piqua