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August 14, 2018

Chairman Richard Shelby
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), which represents over 300 public wastewater and stormwater utilities in nearly every state, we thank you for your commitment to advancing Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 spending bills, in particular the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As the Senate and House move to reconcile and produce a final FY19 spending package, we want to reiterate our strong support for maintaining level funding with FY18 for critical federal programs helping advance clean water and infrastructure investment.

NACWA strongly urges that the FY19 funding levels for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Revolving Funds (SRFs) be provided at a total of \$1.694 billion and \$1.164 billion, respectively, as provided in the Senate's bill (totaled across all Titles). We also support increased funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, at a level of \$75 million as provided in the House's bill. These core EPA water infrastructure investment programs are essential to helping communities and ratepayers around the country finance critical water projects and ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.

NACWA further urges that any final FY19 bill maintain level funding for the full range of EPA's Geographic Watershed Programs. We are grateful that both the House and Senate bills maintain level funding for EPA's Section 106 and Section 319 grants to States at \$230.8 million and \$170.9 million, respectively. These critical programs aid States, territories, and tribes in implementing the Clean Water Act and addressing pressing local and regional water quality challenges.

Finally, we request as robust funding as possible for National Priorities Water Research and for Water Security at EPA to advance important water research and ensure local water agencies can prepare for potential threats to critical water services.

NACWA and all of the utility members and communities we represent are grateful for the strengthened federal investment in water Congress made in FY18, and we thank you for your attention to maintaining strong funding in FY19. We appreciate your hard work on these issues throughout the remainder of the FY19 appropriations process and look forward to continued engagement with you to ensure robust funding for water priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam Krantz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Adam Krantz
CEO