



March 5, 2020

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dan Kildee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Katko and Kildee:

We thank you for introducing the ARPA-H2O Act, legislation that will promote the development of technological innovation across the drinking water and clean water utility sectors. On behalf of the drinking water, wastewater, and water research community, we would like to express our support for this important bipartisan legislation.

Our nation's water infrastructure is at a critical juncture. Over the past several decades, aging infrastructure along with growing water quality, environmental, and economic challenges have made it more difficult and costly for communities across the country to provide safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water and clean water services to their residents. We believe that a greater emphasis on water research at the federal level is necessary to help communities, both urban and rural, develop and implement the technological tools they need to meet these challenges and protect public health and the environment, as well as grow their local economies.

The ARPA-H2O Act would establish a federal Advanced Research Projects Agency – Water to offer funding assistance to drinking water and wastewater systems, private sector entities, academic research institutions, and nonprofit organizations that are developing innovative and technologically advanced methods to improve the treatment, monitoring, delivery, affordability, and safety of drinking water and wastewater. Eligible projects will include those that use new technologies to improve the operations and security of water systems, address harmful contaminants and nutrient management, ensure greater resource recovery and beneficial reuse, or lead to increased energy efficiency and resiliency, among others. An appointed research council will identify the program's annual research priorities, and funding recipients will be chosen based on factors such as technical merit and transformative potential.

Research supported by the ARPA-H2O Act will give local communities the long-term solutions they need to achieve sustainable water supplies and positive water quality and public health outcomes in an affordable manner. Our organizations thank you again for your support for the ARPA-H2O Act, and we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
BPC Action
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
Water Environment Federation (WEF)
The Water Research Foundation
WaterReuse Association