



David L. Gadis, Chief Executive Officer

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY | 1385 CANAL STREET, SE | WASHINGTON, DC 20003

March 23, 2020

**The Honorable John Kennedy
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Financial Services & General Government
Russell Senate Office Building, 383
Washington, D.C. 20510**

**The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman
House of Representatives Subcommittee on Financial Services & General Government
2458 Rayburn Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20515**

**The Honorable Christopher Coons
Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Financial Services & General Government
Russell Senate Office Building, #218,
Washington, D.C. 20510**

**The Honorable Tom Graves
Ranking Member
House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Financial Services & General Government
Rayburn House Office Building, 2078 Independence Ave SW,
Washington, D.C. 20515**

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Thank you for your hard work responding to the Coronavirus during the past few weeks. As the Senate continues to debate the various ways in which to prevent a recession, stimulate the economy and compensate various industries that have been adversely impacted, we the undersigned wanted to call your attention to the plight of water utilities.

As you may know, the broad national effort to encourage many people to remain home and for most businesses to alter the way they operate began almost two weeks ago and is unlikely to end any time soon. During this period, most water systems have registered a significant drop in revenue brought about by the closure and reduced hours of such a diverse swath of the economy. Hotels and conventions are off, sports arenas are closed, schools are empty and restaurants and bars everywhere are deserted.

The result of this freeze in activity has meant a major drop in revenue to water and waste water systems from coast to coast. In the case of water systems in large cities, the decline is even sharper but every system has registered the loss and every city and community is hurting. This is significant because the loss of revenue makes it harder for us to balance our budget without contemplating larger rate increases on already struggling customers. And the safety limits on our workers in some cases is limiting our ability to respond to some basic maintenance and repairs, creating more costly challenges down the road.

In the case of DC Water, the losses are expected to easily exceed \$10 million, the result primarily of a steep decline in public gatherings that means far less consumption.

It's our request that you and other Congressional leaders find ways to include public water systems around the country in any final assistance package that is sent to the President. We believe its in the best interests of the nation and the best interest of every community in the country.

Thank you for your consideration,

**David L. Gadis
Chief Executive Officer and General Manager
DC Water**

**Joshua D Schimmel
Executive Director
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission**

**Robert Judge
Executive Manager
Chester Water Authority**

**Terry Leeds,
Director
KC Water**

**Tom Sigmund
Executive Director
Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District**

**Greg Ramon
Chief Executive Officer
Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority**

Laura Briefer
Director
Department of Public Utilities Salt Lake City Corporation

Scott Jellison,
CEO
The Metropolitan District, Hartford CT

David Denard
Director, Environmental Services
Jefferson County, AL

Wes Kucera
Managing Director Water and Wastewater
Garland, Texas

Susan Crowley Saffery
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City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities

William J. “Mickey” Conway
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Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

Roger S. Bailey
General Manager
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

James A. Parrott
Executive Director
Louisville MSD

Mami Hara
Director
City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities

Ted Henifin, P.E.
General Manager
Hampton Roads Sewer District

Kevin M. Norton
Director of Water Utilities
City of Corpus Christi Water Utilities Department

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City of Atlanta
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Carla Reid
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Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission