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**Ken Kirk**

February 8, 2012

**Senator Sherrod Brown**

**713 Hart Senate Office Building**

**Washington, DC 20520**

Dear Senator Brown,

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), representing nearly 300 municipal clean water agencies nationwide, including 12 from the State of Ohio, is pleased to support the *Clean Water Affordability Act*. The Act would authorize \$250 million annually for sewer overflow control grants and require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address community affordability issues with respect to increasingly costly Clean Water Act requirements. NACWA has been working closely with you on these issues for several years and commends you for your diligence and leadership on this complex but critically necessary effort.

EPA estimates that communities struggling to control sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and combined sewer overflows (CSOs) will need to spend more than \$130 billion to reduce or eliminate these overflows. The demands on Ohio's and the Nation's ratepayers are staggering and your proposed legislation constitutes a vital step toward helping communities address these challenges in a sound and viable manner.

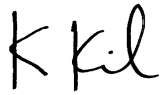
NACWA also appreciates your bill's provisions to guide a much-needed EPA-led integrated permitting process that will help cash-strapped communities in Ohio and across the country maximize water quality benefits and make progress toward achieving the lofty goals of the Clean Water Act. This language helps to ensure that clean water agencies are able to prioritize their compliance obligations and optimize their infrastructure improvement investments through an appropriate — and affordable — sequencing of work.

Modernizing the country's aging sewer systems is going to require both significant and smart investments. Your bill sets up the framework to make this a reality by

giving communities the added flexibility to meet environmental needs and to make the wise investments with limited public funds that will continue to create jobs and spur the economy.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to enact this legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "K" being large and prominent.

Ken Kirk  
Executive Director

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The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) represents the interests of more than 300 public agencies and organizations that have made the pursuit of scientifically based, technically sound and cost effective laws and regulations their objective. NACWA members serve the majority of the sewered population in the United States and collectively treat and reclaim more than 18 billion gallons of wastewater daily.