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**Ken Kirk**

May 9, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) urges Congress to revise amendments passed in separate bills, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (H.R.2146) and the 21st Century Postal Service Act (S. 1789), on April 25 that would place severe restrictions on federal government employees attending meetings and conferences.

NACWA is an association that represents nearly 300 public wastewater treatment agencies led by locally elected and appointed, public officials. These agencies treat and reclaim a majority of the wastewater generated each day nationwide in order to meet the stringent requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA). NACWA conducts annual conferences and a variety of meetings on key CWA-related issues. At these meetings, federal employees, including Members of Congress and their staff, as well as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other Administration staff, are invited to update and interact with our member agencies as co-regulators as well as representatives of the municipal-federal government partnership that helps ensure our Nation's waters are clean and safe. These meetings are vital to ensuring the sound implementation and development of federal clean water policy and regulations. Furthermore, federal employee attendance at these sessions helps ensure that public ratepayer dollars being spent to meet the objectives of the CWA are being maximized.

The amendments, whether purposefully or unintentionally, could be interpreted to limit federal agency personnel from attending more than one meeting held by an organization if there is any agency travel expense. This would hinder the federal municipal partnership and could deny NACWA's membership the ability to meet together with government officials on vital policy matters. Most importantly, it would chill the important policy work and exchange of ideas under the CWA that ensures environmental progress and protects the health of every American. Again, we urge Congress to strike this provision, Section 4, of the legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Sinicropi at 202/533-1823 or [psinicropi@nacwa.org](mailto:psinicropi@nacwa.org)

Sincerely,



Ken Kirk  
NACWA's Executive Director