

draft
(Insert Utility / Community Name - Logo)

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of the **(insert population served from state)** who depend on our utility for the treatment of their wastewater each day, I ask that as you negotiate a final FY15 spending package for the Environmental Protection Agency, you accept the \$2 million that was included in the proposed House package to support a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of the Integrated Planning Initiative that EPA launched in 2012. This money would assist communities like **(insert community name)** successfully implement a new model for meeting Clean Water Act (CWA) obligations.

The EPA released the Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework to help struggling communities meet CWA objectives by prioritizing capital investments through the appropriate sequencing of wastewater and stormwater projects. Adopting this integrated approach can potentially save ratepayers millions of dollars while targeting clean water investments in a way that ensures the greatest water quality benefit. These critical savings to our cash-strapped community can be achieved without retreating on the tremendous progress that we've made in improving water quality in **(insert state.)** However, taking advantage of the program requires communities to develop integrated plans that can potentially cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The requested funding would assist pilot communities in each EPA region develop integrated plans on a 50/50 cost-share basis. The pilot initiative would enable Congress to guarantee that all regions of the country participate in this effort and see to it that this new model for meeting CWA obligations receives an opportunity to effectively be evaluated.

Again, as you enter conference negotiations, please support the House request of \$2 million for an integrated planning pilot program in the FY2015 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Your leadership in the Senate is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you to ensure the success of this new model.

Sincerely,

(Insert Utility Director/Community Official)