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**Ken Kirk**

September 1, 2011

**President Obama**  
**The White House**  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Dear President Obama:**

As your Administration embarks on an historic effort to put the Nation's economy on a solid footing and seeks to identify that fine line between measures that will put people back to work now while cutting the Nation's long-term deficit challenge, I hope you build on the initial commitment you made by signing the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* into law — to fund our nation's critical infrastructure, including clean water infrastructure. The attached White Paper, *Investing More Now in America's Clean Water Infrastructure: Good for Jobs, the Economy, and the Environment*, outlines the employment, economic and environmental benefits of clean water infrastructure investment.

From a broad policy standpoint, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) believes that the construction-based programs in the federal budget are exactly the wrong programs to be cutting if jobs are the top economic priority. Yet, according to recent studies, it is precisely these programs that are receiving the lion's share of budget cuts.

NACWA believes that cutting programs like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) — a program that has a proven track record of creating jobs — is precisely the wrong move at the wrong time. In fact, this program should be bolstered either through increased general revenue funding or through a new deficit-neutral trust fund for clean water infrastructure — an approach that has received bipartisan support in Congress and which we would be happy to discuss further with the appropriate White House staff.

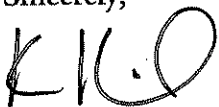
As the attached white paper points out in greater detail, increased investment in clean water infrastructure would have tremendous benefits. The case for such investment is clear and can be summarized as follows:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated a \$300-500 billion funding gap between current and needed investment to ensure the continued viability of the Nation's clean and safe water infrastructure;
- Leading economists estimate 28,500 construction, engineering and manufacturing jobs are created per \$1 billion of federal investment in water infrastructure;
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that every job created in water and sewer infrastructure creates over 3 additional jobs in the national economy to support that job;
- There exist over \$40 billion in documented, ready-to-go water infrastructure construction projects across the nation and, as Hurricane recently made clear, these projects are critical to ensuring basic sanitation and drinking water service to the Nation's communities;
- The EPA found that over 99% of water infrastructure dollars included in the ARRA were obligated to projects prior to statutory deadlines; and
- The existing State offices for administering the CWSRF are ideal for distributing new federal water infrastructure funding and have thousands of vetted, critical, projects that can be funded expeditiously.

In line with these considerations, and the more detailed economic analysis contained in the attached White Paper, I sincerely hope your jobs and economic growth plan will either in its current form or as it develops include funding for the Nation's clean and safe water infrastructure.

Please feel free to have the appropriate staff contact me at 202-833-4653 to discuss these issues further and thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Nation's clean and safe water.

Sincerely,



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.