

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee for
Interior and the Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee for
Interior and the Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Dicks and Congressman Tiahrt:

We are writing to respectfully request \$1 million in funding within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's fiscal year (FY) 2009 budget to provide wastewater treatment plants with training, technical assistance and information to help them implement best practices for biosolids management. The grant program is authorized under Section 1443 (a) of the Clean Water Act.

According to EPA, publicly owned treatment works produce approximately 7 million dry tons of biosolids annually, and recycle approximately 54% through land application practices. Biosolids is the by-product of the wastewater treatment process and, when properly treated and managed, can be used as a beneficial soil nutrient fertilizer, safely disposed of in landfills, or incinerated for energy recovery and solids reductions without causing harm to the environment. On average, almost fifty percent of operating costs for a local municipal wastewater treatment plant goes toward biosolids management – a substantial budget item for many communities.

Communities across the country that we represent have benefited from past federal assistance. Past Federal funding for biosolids has supported training and technical assistance to help wastewater utilities develop and implement environmental management systems to achieve best practices in biosolids management. Federal funding for these efforts leverages additional local funding contributed by participating wastewater utilities that dedicate resources of their own to successfully implement their biosolids program.

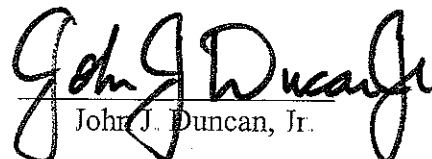
Federal support for biosolids training, technical assistance and information lapsed last year, risking the efforts our communities have invested in their biosolids' environmental management program. We urge you to renew funding for these vital community services in FY09 so that our communities can continue to take advantage these services and other communities can access them into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Tim Aiken (6-0015) in Rep. Jim Moran's Office if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


James P. Moran


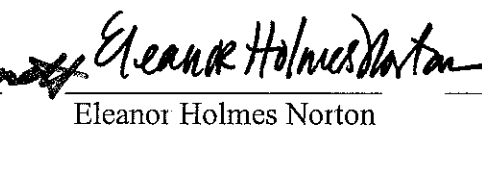


Thomas H. Allen

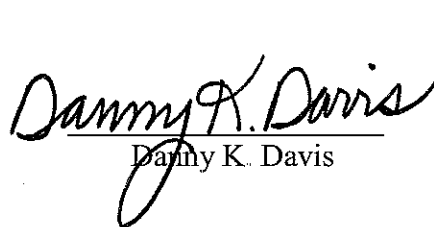
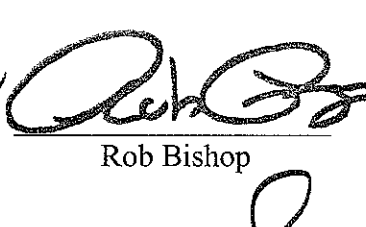
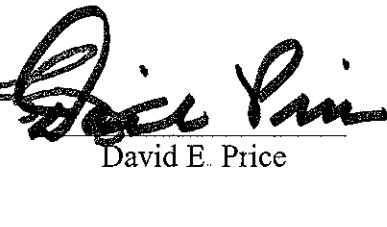

John J. Duncan, Jr.

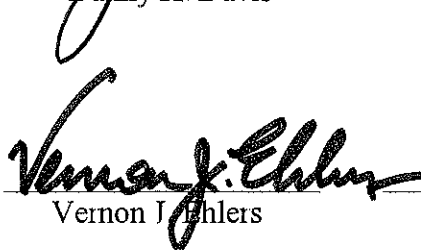
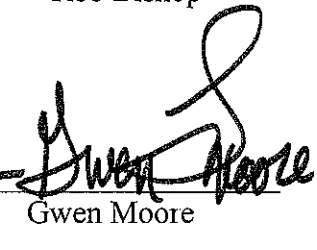
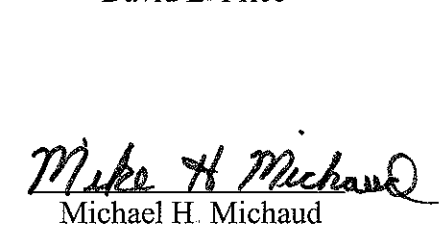
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