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Ken Kirk

February 4, 2009

National Association of Clean Water Agencies Urges Senate Support for Boxer/Inhofe Amendment Boosting Infrastructure Funding

Dear Senator:


The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) urges Senate support for the Boxer/Inhofe amendment to the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. The amendment will provide up to \$50 billion in additional funding to critical highway, transit, water and wastewater infrastructure across the country.

Specifically, the amendment would redirect funding that would otherwise expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2009 in addition to unobligated balances from programs appropriated throughout the stimulus package that have not been obligated within a full year after enactment. The funds would be redistributed to states for use on highways, transit and water projects, based on a priority list of needs as ready to go to contract within 120 days. Currently, NACWA members alone have identified nearly \$17 billion in ready-to-go wastewater infrastructure projects nationwide.

The additional investment would help address the \$300-500 billion water infrastructure funding gap reported by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), while creating good jobs in communities across America. NACWA estimates that each additional \$1 billion spent on water infrastructure will create or support about 35,000 jobs improving and upgrading our Nation's pipes and treatment facilities. These jobs cannot be exported, and will employ workers with a broad range of skills, including architects, engineers and construction workers.

The Boxer/Inhofe amendment is critical to ensure that the economic recovery package funds program that can get people working faster – and we urge your support when it comes to a vote today in the Senate. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ken Kirk
Executive Director
National Association of Clean Water Agencies