

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Marian A. Orfeo

Director of Planning

& Coordination

Massachusetts Water

Resources Authority

Boston, MA

VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin L. Shafer

Executive Director

Milwaukee Metropolitan

Sewerage District

Milwaukee, WI

TREASURER

Jeff Theerman

Executive Director

Metropolitan St. Louis

Sewer District

Saint Louis, MO

SECRETARY

David R. Williams

Director of Wastewater

East Bay Municipal

Utility District

Oakland, CA

PAST PRESIDENT

Christopher M. Westhoff

Assistant City Attorney

Public Works General Counsel

City of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ken Kirk

March 4, 2009

The Honorable James Oberstar, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

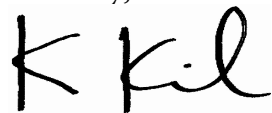
The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) is writing to express its support for the *Water Quality Investment Act of 2009* (H.R. 1262). NACWA applauds the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee for moving quickly on this bipartisan legislative package which would reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) at \$13.8 billion over five years, and authorize \$1.8 billion for grants to address Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), \$250 million for grants for alternative water source projects, and \$750 million for the remediation of contaminated sediments under the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

In March 2007, the House passed the *Water Quality Financing Act of 2007* in a veto-proof 303-108 vote that would have reauthorized the CWSRF at \$14 billion over four years. The recent economic downturn has made it even more difficult for communities across the country to move forward with much-needed infrastructure projects that support the economy, create jobs, and ensure public health and the environment. Communities nationwide are struggling to fill the \$350-\$500 billion funding gap to pay for critical wastewater and water infrastructure necessary to protect public health and the environment. We believe that reauthorizing this valuable program is an important step toward a long-term federal-state-local investment partnership.

NACWA also supports including in the package the *Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act* which was nearly enacted by the 110th Congress. This legislation, which was the result of negotiations between NACWA and American Rivers, requires communities to adopt monitoring, reporting and notification procedures to alert wastewater treatment operators and the public of sewage overflows and will provide additional tools for communities to use in their efforts to reduce and eliminate overflows while protecting public health. NACWA also applauds the inclusion of sewer overflow grant funding in the package.

Thank you for your continued leadership in tackling these difficult challenges, and to the extent NACWA members have any concerns with the legislation, we look forward to working with the Committee as it moves forward.

Sincerely,



Ken Kirk
NACWA Executive Director