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March 10, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support the “Water Quality Investment Act of 2009” – H.R. 1262

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner,

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 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.

Last Congress, 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, 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.

In addition, we firmly believe that the water infrastructure needs of our nation and the importance of this infrastructure to our economy, public health and the environment far outweigh the issue of how “Davis-Bacon” coverage is applied to these critical infrastructure dollars. Legislative language providing full “Davis-Bacon” coverage for construction

carried out with funding authorized in H.R. 1262 should not be an impediment to the passage of this legislation. NACWA supports the *Water Quality Investment Act of 2009* and we strongly urge your support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk". The "K" is large and stylized, followed by "Kirk" in a cursive script.

Ken Kirk
NACWA Executive Director

cc: Members of the United States House of Representatives