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Ken Kirk

May 1, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sent via Facsimile:

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Dicks, Ranking Member Lewis and Ranking Member Simpson:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) strongly urges your support of President Obama's request of \$2.4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) as you develop the fiscal year (FY) 2010 appropriations bills. NACWA represents the nation's publicly owned clean water agencies that serve a majority of the sewered population and collectively treat and reclaim over eighteen billion gallons of wastewater every day.

Though the CWSRF has provided significant clean water benefits, funding for it has continued to fall since fiscal year 2004 when Congress appropriated \$1.35 billion. This decline comes even as reports from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Government Accountability Office (GAO), and Water Infrastructure Network (WIN) estimate the funding need for the next 20 years at \$300 – \$500 billion.

Meanwhile, the nation's clean water agencies continue to struggle to meet increasing challenges placed on aging wastewater infrastructure from population growth, Clean Water Act requirements, and the rising cost of construction materials and labor. NACWA believes the time is right for the federal government to recommit itself to the nation's clean water infrastructure, and funding the CWSRF program at \$2.4 billion for FY 2010 would be another step toward a long-term sustainable commitment to our nation's clean water goals via a clean water trust fund.

Once again, we thank you for your support of the nation's publicly owned treatment works.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk". The "K" is large and stylized, with the first name "Kirk" written in a cursive script.

Ken Kirk
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the Appropriations Committee