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**Ken Kirk**

June 19, 2009

The Honorable Lois Capps  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Capps:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, I want to express our organization's support for the "*Water System Adaptation Partnerships Act of 2009*" to establish program to provide support for our nation's water, stormwater, and wastewater utilities to design, plan, construct, and implement projects that help them adapt to water resources challenges posed by global climate change.

As you are aware, global climate change is expected to lead to a host of challenges for local water, stormwater and wastewater utilities, ranging from severe drought and melting snowpack that stresses water supplies to increased heavy precipitation events and rising sea levels that threaten water quality.

Though the exact effects of climate change on water resources are uncertain and will vary by region, wastewater treatment utilities charged with protecting public health and the environment can anticipate daunting challenges, including:

- In regions where extreme drought conditions persist or where saltwater intrusion compromises freshwater supplies, wastewater reuse and recycling inevitably will become a greater part of the water supply solution, at a substantial cost to ratepayers. Already, California lawmakers are considering legislation mandating fifty percent water reuse by wastewater facilities along the coast by 2030;
- Extreme storms in certain regions of the country will likely result in greater sewage overflows in rivers, lakes and coastal beaches from treatment plants that were not designed for climate change-induced conditions, potentially resulting in greater public health risks and economic losses to commercial fishing and recreation-based economies; and
- Wastewater treatment facilities located along the coast and vulnerable to sea level rise will need to either buffer their infrastructure or relocate altogether to avoid being inundated.

NACWA Climate Change Infrastructure Letter

June 19, 2009

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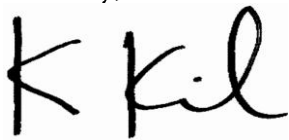
Yet as we begin to experience the full impacts of climate change, wastewater treatment facilities must continue to provide uninterrupted, high-quality service to their customers and in many cases expand their facilities to accommodate population growth. In order to adequately confront the water-related challenges that climate change presents, water-related infrastructure and our water resource agencies must be part of the solution.

The “*Water System Adaptation Partnerships Act of 2009*” recognizes the critical role our water utilities will play in helping our nation adapt to climate change by offering competitive grants to help water utilities undertake capital projects to develop water supplies or improve water quality, water conservation and efficiency efforts, and utility-specific evaluations to estimate how climate change will impact their sustainability.

It is our understanding that you are seeking to have this bill be incorporated into H.R. 2454, the “*American Clean Energy and Security Act*”, during floor debate on this legislation. We fully support this effort and believe that the Waxman-Markey bill would be significantly strengthened by the addition of this measure.

Thank you for your leadership on important issue.

Sincerely,

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

Ken Kirk  
Executive Director

Cc: Chairman Waxman  
Chairman Markey