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Ken Kirk

July 2, 2009

The Honorable Jay Inslee
403 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4701

Dear Representative Inslee:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), representing the nation's publicly owned wastewater treatment works (POTWs) that serve a majority of the sewered population of the United States, would like to express its appreciation for your work on the *Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2009* (H.R. 1191). NACWA supports the legislation, which will facilitate the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and protect the country's vital water resources.

NACWA represents the interests of nearly 300 public wastewater treatment agencies, who are responsible for ensuring the wastewater from their respective communities is appropriately treated before being discharged to the Nation's waters. NACWA is interested in finding a management framework that will keep unused pharmaceuticals from entering the water environment, ensure that controlled substances are responsibly handled, and minimize the burden on limited local resources. The Association believes that H.R. 1191 will help accomplish these goals.


Take-back programs for unused pharmaceuticals are one of the few tools utilities currently have to address the issue of unused drugs. Many communities have held pharmaceutical collection (or take-back) events designed to keep thousands of pounds of pharmaceuticals out of the sewers and raise the level of awareness in their communities regarding the impacts of what they flush down the toilet. However, restrictions under the Controlled Substances Act often make it difficult for widespread implementation of drug take-back programs by wastewater utilities.

By taking a comprehensive approach in addressing controlled substances and other drugs, H.R. 1191 will enable States to undertake effective programs to ensure pharmaceuticals are properly disposed. The legislation also would make important changes to drug labeling requirements, which would help control the prevalent practice of flushing unused pharmaceuticals.

Drug Take Back
NACWA
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Again, NACWA applauds your leadership on this issue and looks forward to working with you and other key stakeholders to build a coalition of support for H.R. 1191 to protect the clean water resources of the United States. If you have questions, please contact Patricia Sinicropi, NACWA Legislative Director, at 202-833-2672.

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
NACWA Executive Director