



October 21, 2009

via Fax

The Honorable John Kerry  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry and Chairman Boxer:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), thank you for including the *Water System Mitigation and Adaptation Partnerships* program within the *Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act*. The nation's wastewater utilities will be among the first to feel the impacts of climate change, and this proposal will respond with competitive matching funds to assist in the design, planning, construction, and implementation of necessary climate change adaptation projects.

NACWA and CASA believe that climate change is all about water – either there will be more water in areas that are already water-rich or less water in areas that need it most. Under changing climate conditions, the nation's wastewater utilities will be on the frontlines in managing water resources to ensure that public health is protected and environmental goals are achieved. However, wastewater utilities already face daunting challenges in maintaining their systems in the face of aging infrastructure and increased population demands. For this reason, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to avoid catastrophic climate change, devastating impacts to our water resources, and the resultant stresses to our wastewater infrastructure, is of paramount concern for NACWA's and CASA's members and is why we support comprehensive climate change legislation.

We are pleased that S. 1733 recognizes the unique challenges that climate change will pose to our nation's water, wastewater and stormwater utilities and includes provisions to help address those challenges. The *Water System Mitigation and Adaptation Partnerships* program would establish a competitive grant program through which the

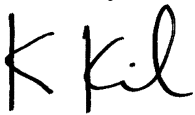
nation's water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities will compete for funding to undertake projects to adapt their operations to these impacts. Eligible projects will include efforts to conserve water or increase the efficiency in its use, preserve or improve water quality, rebuild or relocate threatened infrastructure, protect sourcewaters and ecosystems, or implement advanced treatment technologies such as water reuse, recycling, and desalination. Additionally, water systems could use grant funds to increase their use of renewable energy or to conduct local-level analyses of future climate-related water resource challenges they will face.

Energy recovery efforts are increasingly becoming part of wastewater utilities core operations to reduce their GHG footprint and operating costs. Many utilities are recovering enough energy from their treatment processes to exceed internal demand thereby enabling them to offer inexpensive, renewable energy to the electric grid. We would like to continue to work with you to identify additional opportunities within S. 1733 to promote greater use of this renewable source of energy to assist our nation in becoming energy independent.

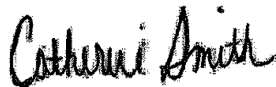
We support your goal of enacting comprehensive legislation to reduce GHG emissions this year. We appreciate that S. 1733 recognizes that water systems must have tools at hand to prepare for unavoidable climate impacts expected to occur over the coming decades – before the full benefits of emissions reductions are felt. The *Water System Mitigation and Adaptation Partnerships* program strengthens the *Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act* by recognizing water resources adaptation as a critical component of a comprehensive climate change strategy.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to advance and fund the *Water System Mitigation and Adaptation Partnerships* program as part of the *Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk".

Ken Kirk  
Executive Director  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Smith".

Catherine Smith  
Executive Director  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA)

CC: The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
The Honorable James M. Inhofe