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Ken Kirk

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chair

Committee on Environment and Public Works

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Boxer:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), I am writing to thank you again for including provisions in S. 1733 to help address the challenges that climate change will pose to our nation's water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, and urge the Environment and Public Works Committee to pass the bill so that further action can occur in the Senate.

We believe that climate change is all about water: its most critical impacts will be on the hydrological system, including more severe droughts and floods of increased intensity, declining snowpack, varying stream flow patterns, aquifer level changes, increased saltwater intrusion and rising sea levels, among others. 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, as described in the joint NACWA-AMWA report *Confronting Climate Change: An Early Analysis of Water and Wastewater Adaptation Costs* (available at www.nacwa.org).

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to avoid devastating impacts to our water resources and the resulting stresses to our wastewater infrastructure is of paramount concern for NACWA's members. However, water systems must also 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.

We support *The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act* because it provides for both mitigation of climate change's consequences and support for critical adaptation efforts. We particularly appreciate the inclusion of the Water System Mitigation and Adaptation Partnership program, which would establish a competitive grant program through which the nation's water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities can compete for funding to undertake projects to adapt their operations to climate change impacts.

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We support your goal of enacting this critical legislation this year. To that end, we encourage committee action on S. 1733 as quickly as possible. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to advance and fund this important legislation's water resources provisions.

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
Executive Director