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**Ken Kirk**

January 28, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) urges your support for maintaining the President's \$2.1 billion budget request for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) as Congress finalizes fiscal year 2011 appropriations. This funding is critical to protecting public health and the environment while stimulating jobs and economic growth in America's cities and towns.

It is well documented that our water infrastructure is reaching a tipping point. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) latest infrastructure report card gave the nation's water infrastructure a D-, the lowest of any category. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates a \$632 billion shortfall in water infrastructure funding over the next 20 years. As a result, each day the nation suffers significant losses and damages from broken water and sewer mains, sewage overflows, and scarcity of drinking water supplies among other challenges.

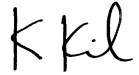
At the same time, investments in water infrastructure provide significant economic benefits. The Conference of Mayors notes that each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by \$6.35. A dollar invested in water infrastructure creates more jobs than in any other type of infrastructure. In addition, the Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the local water and sewer industry creates

3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries.

Pressured by funding shortfalls, aging infrastructure and increasingly stringent water quality criteria, clean water utilities have raised rates by 3% a year above inflation over the last decade. In 2010, NACWA members raised rates by 9% with double-digit increases needed for many years in the future if the federal government does not act. Continued rate increases are unrealistic as public utilities, and their ratepayers, struggle to emerge from the Great Recession.

For these reasons, it is critical the federal government remains a reliable partner in meeting the nation's clean water needs. While \$2.1 billion represents a fraction of the \$93 billion local governments invest annually, this funding is highly productive in the American economy with substantial returns in the form of jobs, economic growth and competitiveness while safeguarding the environment, public health, and quality of life for countless Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Kirk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Kirk

Executive Director

CC: All Members of Congress