



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515
April 19, 2013

Nick J. Rahall, III
Ranking Member

Christopher P. Bertram, Staff Director

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

James H. Zoia, Democrat Staff Director

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Pilot Projects for Integrated Planning in the Environmental Programs and Management Account

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

We respectfully request your support for a pilot project to assist communities in successfully implementing a new model for meeting Clean Water Act (CWA) obligations.

Recently, the EPA released the Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework (Framework) outlining a new model to help communities meet their regulatory obligations under the Clean Water Act (CWA) in an integrated manner. If successfully implemented, this model could help communities more affordably manage their clean water obligations while ensuring continuous progress toward water quality goals.

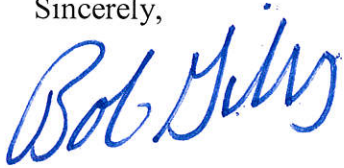
For this model to succeed, however, communities must develop an Integrated Plan outlining water quality goals, human health and regulatory issues that they need to address, an assessment of existing systems, an evaluation of the communities' financial capability, an evaluation of cost-effective approaches for addressing identified issues, metrics to measure success, and a process for incorporating adaptive management techniques.

This request, for \$5 million to be used out of the Environmental Programs and Management Account, would assist three to five communities in each EPA region to develop integrated plans. This would enable Congress to guarantee that all regions of the country participate in this effort and see to it that this new model for meeting CWA obligations receives an opportunity to effectively be evaluated. *The request is for one fiscal year and will be supported through current EPA appropriations within currently authorized levels. We are not seeking additional funding.*

An Integrated Planning approach to CWA obligations can potentially save ratepayers millions of dollars while allowing clean water investments to be targeted in a way that ensures the greatest water quality benefit. As you well know, communities are under enormous financial pressure to

maintain critical services for their residents, including education, fire and safety and critical public health infrastructure including drinking water and clean water. EPA should be applauded for proposing a new model for helping communities meet their regulatory obligations under the CWA. With some additional assistance from Congress, we can ensure that this new model succeeds.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs



Tim Bishop