



September 18, 2013

The Honorable Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

The undersigned organizations representing the water utility and environmental communities would like to express our support for S. 1508, the “Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2013.” This important legislation will help communities prepare their water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure for the threats posed by extreme weather and changing hydrological conditions.

It is well documented that the next several decades will strain the resources and infrastructure of the nation’s drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems. One recent study estimated that these systems will have to spend as much as \$1 trillion over forty years just to continue current service levels due to the impacts of severe drought, more frequent hurricanes and floods, and rising sea levels. Additionally, new EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy recently identified global climate change and aging water infrastructure as two of the top challenges facing the agency in the years ahead.

The “Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2013” will begin to address this problem by offering competitive matching funds to help the nation’s water, wastewater, and stormwater agencies undertake projects to adapt their infrastructure to extreme weather events and changing hydrological conditions. Eligible projects will include efforts to conserve water or increase efficiency in its use, preserve or improve water quality, rebuild or relocate threatened infrastructure, protect source waters and ecosystems, and implement advanced treatment technologies such as water reuse and recycling.

The legislation will encourage water systems to utilize innovative infrastructure approaches that will serve as models for other communities struggling with similar water management challenges. Local water utilities will also be able to use funding assistance to increase their use of renewable energy or to conduct local-level analyses of future water resource challenges they will face. In sum, the bill will encourage communities

The Honorable Ben Cardin

September 18, 2013

Page 2 of 2

across the country to build resiliency into their infrastructure today, and will help ensure uninterrupted water and wastewater service for decades to come.

Again, we strongly support S. 1508, the “Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2013.” We thank you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you toward the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association

American Rivers

American Water Works Association

Association of California Water Agencies

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

California Association of Sanitation Agencies

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of Water Companies

Natural Resources Defense Council

Water Environment Federation

WaterReuse Association

Water Utility Climate Alliance

World Wildlife Fund