



WESTERN RECYCLED WATER COALITION
A Collaborative Approach to Developing Sustainable Water Supplies



June 15, 2015

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Huffman:

The undersigned organizations, representing local public water and wastewater agencies, and the water environment professionals who work for and with them, are pleased to support in concept your effort to address the need for innovative solutions to meet the challenges posed by changing hydrological conditions, including persistent drought in the West.

The as-yet untitled Act you are sponsoring would advance many of the priorities of our organizations, including providing safe and reliable water supplies for municipal, industrial and agricultural purposes, improving water quality and protecting our nation's ecosystems.

The various provisions of your measure also offer a path to both leverage existing federal policies and programs to enhance the development of new sustainable water projects and the creation of new programs to ensure adequate support for new recycled water supplies. As Congress considers approaches to address the impacts of the historic drought on California and throughout the western United States, we look forward to working with you to further the development of sustainable water supply programs and policies.

The provisions in the bill for emergency funding that would enhance and supplement existing federal water infrastructure assistance programs are critical to jump-start project construction. The need and submitted requests for funding from USEPA's Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act

State Revolving Fund Programs, USDA's Rural Utilities Service – Community Water Assistance Grants and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program far exceeds the amount available.

Emergency funding will help our collective efforts to deliver sustainable water supplies without delays associated with inadequate program funding. The authority for state programs to issue forty year loans will assist recycling projects—which have very long useful lives once constructed-- to “pencil out” and move forward more quickly.

We also support the creation of a dedicated national program of assistance for water recycling at USEPA. This commitment from the federal government can do more to develop alternative water supplies and leverage state assistance.

Finally, we have consistently opposed a prohibition on the use of tax-exempt financing in connection with federal infrastructure assistance. Removing this constraint on the availability of these funds in the context of WIFIA, and the proposed companion program for recycling included in your bill, is important to making this program a success.

Again, we deeply appreciate your leadership in developing a comprehensive response to address the severe drought conditions in the western states. We look forward to working with you on this important matter in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Tim Quinn
Association of California Water
Agencies



Elizabeth Allan
California Water Environment
Association



Roberta Larson
California Association of Sanitation
Agencies

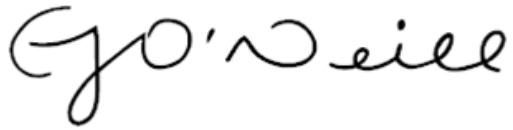


Patricia Sinacropi
National Association of Clean
Water Agencies

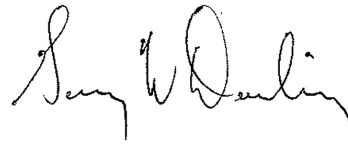
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen O'Neill".

Eileen O'Neill
Water Environment Federation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary W. Darling".

Gary W. Darling
Western Recycled Water Coalition

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa L. Meeker".

Melissa L. Meeker
WaterReuse Association