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Adam Krantz

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Kirk:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), I request a meeting with you at your earliest possible convenience to discuss the provisions of Section 428 of the Senate's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. NACWA represents the interests of nearly 300 public clean water agencies across the country, many of which are in the Great Lakes region. If enacted, Section 428 would have costly consequences for communities and ratepayers throughout the Great Lakes, delay efforts to improve overall water quality in the Great Lakes, and set a dangerous national precedent on an issue that has not received sufficient scientific or economic study. We would be happy to meet with you in either your Washington DC or Chicago office, whichever is more convenient for you, and the meeting would include key NACWA utility members from the Great Lakes regions that would be directly impacted by the proposed legislative language.

While NACWA appreciates your commitment to improving water quality in the Great Lakes, the language of Section 428 will only serve to undermine the progress that municipalities have been making to address the same water quality concerns you seek to address. It will cause communities to spend tens of billions of additional ratepayer dollars to achieve a nearly impossible goal of zero overflows without regard to corresponding improvements in water quality. The proposed provisions would also require communities to spend limited ratepayer resources on eliminating CSO discharges at the expense of addressing the numerous other water quality challenges facing the Great Lakes, including excessive nutrients caused by inadequate conservation practices and soil erosion caused by inadequate stormwater management practices.


My member agencies and I would very much like to discuss alternative approaches that could help advance water quality improvements in the Great Lakes without harming local communities and their ratepayers unnecessarily – a goal we clearly share. Addressing these concerns has risen to the top of NACWA's advocacy priority

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list and we look forward to meeting directly with you and working together to find a path forward that we can mutually support.

Please contact me or Patricia Sinicropi, NACWA's Senior Legislative Director, at psinicropi@nacwa.org, to let us know when and where we can meet to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

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

Adam Krantz

Chief Executive Officer