Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_:

As the FY17 Appropriations process gets underway, I am writing regarding the importance of federal investment in water and to urge you to support key programs that help provide clean water and protect water resources.

*<insert paragraph describing your utility, such as the pollution served, volume treated, and accomplishments>*

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) has worked since 1987 to support state and local investments in clean water infrastructure. Since 1987, using CWSRF funding the States have provided nearly 35,000 low-interest loans. SRF investments facilitate critical investments by clean water agencies, control nonpoint pollution, and improve water quality.

The clean water sector was deeply concerned with the drastic CWSRF funding cut—$414 million—proposed in the Administration’s FY17 Budget. I urge you to reject cutting the CWSRF in FY17 and to consider increasing its funding level to better reflect the nation’s water investment needs. The USEPA estimates that wastewater systems face $271 billion in documented needs over the next twenty years—investments in publicly owned wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities, combined sewer overflow correction, and stormwater management.

*<as applicable, insert a summary of an SRF project at your utility – such as dollars invested and outcomes>*.

I also urge you to deliver robust funding to other important water infrastructure programs, such as:

*(include these items as you see fit for your community, describing any relevant efforts you may have):*

* $35 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) pilot program, its fully authorized level in FY17. As EPA plans to begin issuing WIFIA loans in FY17, fully funding the program will help communities to begin accessing these new infrastructure loans as quickly as possible.
* $23.365 million for Title XVI, which is the amount enacted in FY16, and support for other drought response and water reuse projects at the Bureau of Reclamation.
* $6.5 million to continue EPA’s Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach (Integrated Planning), which helps communities address their EPA regulations cost-effectively and strategically.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to learn more or take a tour of our facilities.

Sincerely,