Dear Senator Rubio,

On April 28th the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported S.2848, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 on a near unanimous vote of 19-1 demonstrating that strong bipartisan support exists in the Senate for addressing our nation’s water resource infrastructure. We believe it is critically important for the full Senate to consider this bill and urge you to support its consideration and passage.

In addition to authorizing critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) projects, this bipartisan package includes common sense reforms to the Clean Water Act (CWA) that save ratepayers millions of dollars, leverage the private marketplace for investments in water infrastructure, and strengthen tools to protect public health.

If enacted, S. 2848 will provide much needed relief to communities struggling to comply with unfunded federal mandates by ensuring clean water investments remain affordable to ratepayers and generate the greatest water quality gains at the lowest cost. The legislative package is especially valuable to communities like Miami-Dade County which is currently under federal consent decree to meet CWA requirements.

The bipartisan package also includes a range of provisions that address infrastructure investment, health, and safety issues of our drinking water and wastewater systems. Critically important are provisions to help communities struggling to ensure their drinking water supplies are not contaminated with lead. The bill also authorizes important ACOE activities in Florida including projects for navigation in Port Everglades, hurricane and storm damage risk reduction in Flagler County, restoration in the Everglades and Picayune Strand, and flood control in Daytona Beach.

Communities in regions across the country from the Southeast to the Midwest to the West will directly benefit by enacting S. 2848 – we urge your support and its swift consideration by the full Senate.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wilson-Davis
President, FWEA Utility Council
FY 2016-2017 Utility Members

Bay County Utility Services
Broward County Water & Wastewater Services
City of Altamonte Springs
City of Atlantic Beach
City of Boca Raton
City of Casselberry
City of Clearwater
City of Cocoa Beach
City of Ft. Lauderdale
City of Fort Walton
City of Freeport
City of Gulf Breeze
City of Hollywood
City of Largo
City of Margate
City of Mount Dora
City of Ocala
City of Orlando
City of Palm Coast
City of Panama City
City of Panama City Beach
City of Sarasota
City of St. Cloud
City of Tallahassee
City of Tampa
City of Vero Beach
City of West Palm Beach
Clay County Utility Authority
Destin Water Users, Inc.
Emerald Coast Utilities Authority
Fort Pierce Utilities
Gainesville Regional Utilities
Hernando County Utilities
Hillsborough County Public Utilities
JEA
Lee County Utilities
Marion County
Martin County
Miami-Dade Water & Sewer
Okaloosa County
Orange County Utilities
Orlando Utilities Commission
Pace Water System, Inc.
Palm Beach County
Pinellas County
Polk County
Reedy Creek Improvement District
Santa Rosa County
Seminole County
South Central Regional Wastewater
South Walton Utilities, Inc.
Toho Water Authority