

July 6, 2016

The Honorable John Cornyn
Assistant Majority Leader
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn,

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 (USACE) 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 bipartisan package also includes a range of provisions that address water infrastructure investment, health, and safety issues. Critically important are provisions to help communities struggling to ensure their drinking water supplies are not contaminated with lead.

The bill also authorizes USACE projects in Texas for navigation and flood risk management including projects at Brazos Island Harbor, the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, the Leon Creek Watershed, Chacon Creek, and the Trinity River. The bill also extends authorization of authority for the Rio Grande Environmental Management Program, reauthorizes the Water Desalination Act of 1996 at \$8 million per fiscal year and encourages research and investment to help address water scarcity.

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

Sincerely,

Austin Water
City of Denton
City of Garland

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority
San Antonio Water System
Upper Trinity Regional Water District