

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Joni Ernst
United States Senate
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst,

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 Dubuque and Waterloo which face federal consent decrees 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, and authorizations for important flood control projects, such as a study in Dubuque to determine the feasibility of increasing flood protection and reducing damages.

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

Sincerely,

City of Burlington

City of Cedar Rapids, Utilities Department

City of Council Bluffs

City of Davenport

City of Des Moines

City of Iowa City

City of Keokuk

City of Muscatine

City of Sioux City