



Brian M. Gresser, P.E.  
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June 21, 2016

The Honorable Rob Portman  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Support for Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (S.2848)**

Dear Senator Portman:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Ohio Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies ("AOMWA") to our express support for the Water Resources Development Act ("WRDA") of 2016 (S.2848). AOMWA is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the interests of public wastewater agencies across the state of Ohio, serving more than 4 million Ohioans and successfully treating more than 300 billion gallons of wastewater each year. AOMWA members include Akron, Butler County, Canton, City of Hamilton, Columbus, Dayton, City of Fairfield, Hamilton County, Lancaster, Lima, Marysville, Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, Middletown, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District ("NEORS"), Portsmouth, Springfield, Toledo and Warren.

S.2848 would greatly help promote investment in water and wastewater infrastructure and assist communities in addressing compliance challenges under the Clean Water Act. As such, AOMWA was pleased to hear that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported S.2848 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 projects, this bipartisan package includes common sense reforms to the CWA that will save ratepayers millions of dollars, leverage the private marketplace for investments in water infrastructure, and strengthen tools to protect public health. This bipartisan package also includes provisions that are imperative to assisting communities struggling to ensure their drinking water supplies are not contaminated with lead.

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 Ohio communities like Cincinnati and Hamilton County,

**c/o Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District  
3900 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
(216) 881-6600**

Toledo, Akron, Youngstown, Euclid, Lima, and those in Northeast Ohio, which are currently under federal consent decree to meet CWA requirements. Further, the bill also includes authorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through Fiscal Year 2020 at \$300 million annually, a critical issue you have championed in Congress.

Communities in Ohio, like our members, and in regions across the country from the Great Lakes to the West to the Southeast will directly benefit from the enactment of S. 2848. Therefore, we urge you to support S. 2848 and its swift consideration by the full Senate.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this very important matter. Should you have any questions or need any additional information from AOMWA, please contact Andrew Etter at [andrew.etter@squirepb.com](mailto:andrew.etter@squirepb.com) or (614) 365-2765.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Gresser, P.E.  
President, AOMWA

cc: (via e-mail)  
Patricia Sinicropi, NACWA Senior Legislative Director  
Guy Jamesson, AOMWA / City of Columbus  
Darnella Robertson, AOMWA / NEORS  
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