

President
Elizabeth Wick

June 23, 2016

President-Elect
Ted Baker

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

Vice-President
Jamie Gellner

Dear Senator Portman,

Past President
Mike Frommer

On behalf of the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA), I am writing to express our support for S.2848 - the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016. OWEA is a member association of the Water Environment Association (WEF) with over 2,000 members in Ohio.

Secretary-Treasurer
Jane Winkler

WEF Delegates
Dale Kocarek
Tom Angelo
Tom Fishbaugh

We are pleased to learn that this bill is receiving strong bipartisan support for addressing our nation's water resource infrastructure. We also believe it is critically important for the full Senate to consider this bill and urge you to support its consideration and passage.

Southeast Delegate
Fred Smith

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.

Northwest Delegate
Kim Riddell

Northeast Delegate
Mike Welke

If enacted, S. 2848 we believe this will be an important piece of legislation by providing 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 infrastructure investment, health, and safety issues of our drinking water and wastewater systems. These are all positives for our members and communities and invoke many of the things we have brought over the years and during the Fly Ins to Capitol Hill each year.

Southwest Delegate
Jason Tincu

Executive Administrator
Amy Davis

Office Assistant
Megan Borrer

We believe that the legislative package will be valuable to Ohio communities both large and small, which strive to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act each and every day. Further, the bill includes authorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through Fiscal Year 2020 at \$300 million annually, which is a critical issue you have championed in Congress.

The following utilities are also in support of WRDA: Avon Lake Regional Water and City of Piqua as well as Dave Davis, Todd Danielson, and William Jones.

In conclusion, we believe that communities in Ohio and the United States will benefit by enacting S. 2848. Therefore, we ask for your support and consideration by the full Senate.

President
Elizabeth Wick

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. As we have mentioned to representatives from your office in the past, we hope you will consider OWEA a resource as you work on water quality issues that affect Ohio and its 11.5 million residents.

President-Elect
Ted Baker

Please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Administrator, Amy Davis, at 614.488.5800 with any questions you may have.

Vice-President
Jamie Gellner

Sincerely,

Past President
Mike Frommer



Secretary-Treasurer
Jane Winkler

Dale Kocarek, Chair

WEF Delegates
Dale Kocarek
Tom Angelo
Tom Fishbaugh

Ohio Water Environment Association

Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee

OWEA Past President 2010-2011

Water Environment Federation Delegate

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