

Alliance for Water Efficiency • American Rainfall Catchment Systems Association • American Rivers • American Standard • American Water Works Association • Amy Vickers & Associates, Inc Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies • Austin Water Utility • Aquacraft, Inc • Chicago Department of Environment • Clean Water Action • Denver Water • Energy Center of Wisconsin • Eugene Water & Electric Board • Ewing Irrigation Products • Florida Department of Environmental Protection • Georgia Environmental Protection Division • Great Lakes Commission • GreenPlumbersUSA • Harris-Galveston Subsidence District • International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials • Irrrometer Co., Inc. • Lakehaven Utility District • Metropolitan Water District of Southern California • National Association of Clean Water Agencies • Natural Resources Defense Council • PCR Resources • Rain Bird Corporation • Tampa Bay Water • TOTO USA, Inc. • University of Florida • Utah State University • Water Environment Federation • Whirlpool Corporation

March 10, 2008

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
131 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Wayne Allard
Ranking Member
Interior, Environment, and Related
Agencies Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Senator Allard:

Communities across the country are being severely strained by the demands put on their clean and safe water supplies due to population growth, changes in precipitation patterns due to climate change, and drought. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently launched a voluntary water efficient product certification and labeling program called "WaterSense." We request that the FY 2009 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provide the WaterSense program \$5 million- an increase of \$3 million over the funds available to the program in FY 2008.

This additional funding will enhance specification development for products and create efficient testing protocols for new products. Also, this increase will enable the agency and associated partners to create a brand identity so consumers can easily identify water-efficient products, and help local utilities and retailers develop marketing and incentive programs.

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) survey of water managers across the country showed that 36 states anticipate local, regional, or statewide water shortages by 2013, even under non-drought conditions. Water shortages undermine economic growth and weaken communities by limiting development and power production. The energy impacts are compounded because it takes a considerable amount of electricity to deliver and treat the water communities use everyday. American public water supply and treatment facilities consume about 56 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year —enough electricity to power more than 5 million homes for an entire year. The impacts to our economy are significant and will continue to grow unless we use our existing water supplies more wisely.

Water efficiency is a much more cost-effective way to help local markets manage water supplies than developing new sources. Water supply infrastructure is a major local and federal cost across the United States, and water efficiency can lessen the stress on both water treatment and wastewater treatment systems and extend their useful life. EPA estimates that if all U.S. households installed water-efficient appliances, the country would save more than 3 trillion gallons of water and more than \$18 billion dollars per year, and reduce Americans' water and sewer bills by one-third.

Communities are looking for outside technical and marketing resources to augment their efforts to undertake meaningful water efficiency plans. The WaterSense program has developed specifications for water-efficient toilets and bathroom faucets and for certified training programs for irrigation system designers, installers, and auditors. Work is underway to develop specifications for showerheads, irrigation control technologies, and the water-conserving features included in new single-family homes. The certification and labeling of products that meet these voluntary criteria will expand their presence in the marketplace and contribute greatly to community water supply plans throughout the country.

The EPA has a staff of only six working with local water utilities, product manufacturers, and retailers to encourage the use of water-efficient products and practices among individuals and developers. WaterSense is modeled on the highly successful, universally recognized and sought after EnergyStar program which spent only \$50 million in 2006 and saved tax payers close to \$14 billion on their energy bills.

We urge you to provide \$5 million in FY 2009 for the WaterSense program to expand to meet the growing demand of communities throughout the country for easily identifiable certified water-efficient products.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Dickinson
Executive Director
Alliance for Water Efficiency
Chicago, IL

Tim Pope
President
American Rainfall Catchment Systems
Association
Austin, TX

Betsy Otto
Senior Director
American Rivers
Washington, DC

C.J. Lagan
Manager, Compliance Engineering
American Standard
Bound Brook, NJ

Tom Curtis
Deputy Executive Director of
Government Affairs
American Water Works Association
Washington, DC

Amy Vickers
President
Amy Vickers & Associates, Inc.
Amherst, MA

Diane VanDe Hei
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Water
Agencies
Washington DC

Peter Mayer, P.E.
Vice President and Partner
Aquacraft, Inc.
Boulder, CO

Daryl Slusher
Assistant Director for Environmental
Affairs and Conservation
Austin Water Utility
Austin, TX

Joyce Coffee
Director of Project Development
Natural Resources and Water Quality
Chicago Department of Environment
Chicago, IL

Paul Schwartz
National Policy Coordinator
Clean Water Action
Washington, DC

Liz Gardener
Water Conservation Manager
Denver Water
Denver, CO

Susan Stratton
Executive Director
Energy Center of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Jill M Hoyenga
Water Management Services Supervisor
Eugene Water & Electric Board
Eugene, OR

Warren Gorowitz
National Water Management Products
Sales Manager
Ewing Irrigation Products, Inc.
Torrance, CA

Tom Swihart
Office of Water Policy
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection
Tallahassee, FL

Alice Miller Keyes
Planning and Policy Advisor
Georgia Environmental Protection
Division
Atlanta, GA

Becky Pearson
Program Specialist
Great Lakes Commission
Ann Arbor, MI

Steve Lehtonen
Director
GreenPlumbersUSA
Sacramento, CA

Carole D. Baker
Dir. of Intergovernmental Relations
Harris-Galveston Subsidence District
Friendswood, TX

Russ Chaney
Executive Director
International Association of Plumbing
and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
Ontario, CA

Tom Penning
President
Irrrometer Co., Inc.
Riverside, CA

Ronald E. Nowicki
President, Board of Commissioners
Lakehaven Utility District
Tacoma, WA

Tim Brick
Chairman of the Board
Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California
Pasadena, CA

Adam Krantz,
Managing Director of Government &
Public Affairs
National Association of Clean Water
Agencies
Washington, DC

Nancy Stoner
Clean Water Program
Natural Resources Defense Council
Washington, DC

Alice Darilek
President
PCR Resources
Santa Fe, NM

Ron Wolfarth
Director, Landscape Irrigation Division
Rain Bird Corporation
Tucson, AZ

Dave Bracciano
Demand Management Coordinator
Tampa Bay Water
Clearwater, FL

Gunnar I. Baldwin
Water Efficiency Specialist
TOTO USA, Inc.
Thornton, NH

James Heaney
Dept. of Environmental Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

Kelly Kopp
Utah State University
Logan, UT

Patricia Sinicropi
Legislative Counsel
Water Environment Federation
Alexandria, VA

J.B. Hoyt
Director, Government Relations
Whirlpool Corporation
Benton Harbor, MI