



ASSOCIATION OF  
METROPOLITAN  
WATER AGENCIES

July 9, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Boxer:

As you begin to develop comprehensive legislation to address global climate change, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) urges you to include strong provisions that will assist the nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities in adapting to changing climactic conditions. In particular, we recommend that you incorporate the "Water System Adaptation Partnerships Act," which was introduced in the House last month by Representative Lois Capps as H.R. 2969, into the domestic adaptation section of your legislation.

Representative Capps worked with AMWA and a broad coalition of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and environmental organizations to develop H.R. 2969, which would establish a competitive grant program through which the nation's water utilities could compete for funding to undertake climate change adaptation projects. Eligible projects would include efforts to conserve water or increase the efficiency in its use, preserve or improve water quality, increase source water protection and the use of green infrastructure, or implement advanced treatment technologies like water reuse and recycling. Additionally, utilities could use grant funds to increase their use of renewable energy or to conduct local-level analyses of future water resource challenges they will face.

Just last month, a report issued by the U.S. Global Change Research Program confirmed that climate change is already impacting America's water resources, ranging from severe drought and melting snowpack that stresses water supplies to increased heavy precipitation events and rising sea levels that threaten water quality. The "Water System Adaptation Partnerships Act" would help local water systems prepare for and respond to these threats, and AMWA strongly supports its inclusion in the Senate's comprehensive climate change legislation.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei  
Executive Director

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*Executive Director*