



ASSOCIATION OF  
METROPOLITAN  
WATER AGENCIES

June 19, 2009

The Honorable Lois Capps  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Capps:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies strongly supports the “Water System Adaptation Partnerships Act,” which you introduced in the House of Representatives today. The legislation, which will establish a competitive grant program to help the nation’s water utilities compete for funding to undertake climate change adaptation projects, represents a sensible approach to ensuring continued, high-quality drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater service.

Just this week, 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” will help water utilities respond to these challenges by offering competitive grants to help finance projects that 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 energy efficiency or to conduct local-level analyses of future water resource challenges they will face.

Many of the most critical impacts of global climate change will manifest themselves through the hydrologic system, so the nation’s water utilities must be prepared to confront these challenges. The “Water System Adaptation Partnerships Act” will help local water systems remain sustainable in the decades ahead, and AMWA strongly supports its passage either individually or as an amendment to comprehensive climate change legislation such as the “American Clean Energy and Security Act” (H.R. 2454).

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei  
Executive Director

cc: Energy and Commerce Committee members

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