



September 7, 2011

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing thousands of drinking water systems across the country, we would like to express our support for H.R. 1340, the "End Unnecessary Costs Caused by Report Mailing Act of 2011." We believe this legislation will allow the nation's drinking water utilities to save money and increase efficiency by utilizing modern communications technology when sharing annual water quality reports with their customers.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (SDWA) require public drinking water systems to "mail" water quality reports to all customers on an annual basis. Fifteen years after enactment of this law, our members report spending hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to distribute these reports through the mail, even though electronic communication options have become prevalent. The money spent printing and mailing these reports could instead be invested in infrastructure upgrades that improve water quality and create jobs.

We are glad to see that H.R. 1340 updates the SDWA to allow drinking water utilities to distribute water quality reports over the Internet, while also ensuring that the public maintains robust access to water quality information. We strongly support the public's right to know about the quality of their drinking water and agree that utilities should continue to be required to mail reports announcing violations of federal water quality standards to their customers. We also support allowing customers to request a paper copy of a water quality report by mail.

H.R. 1340 represents a sensible update to SDWA that will save drinking water systems money while maintaining the public's ability to access important water quality information. The Obama Administration has proposed allowing electronic communication of water quality reports in EPA's "Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations." Your legislation will allow this change to happen in a timely manner. Thank you for introducing this legislation, we look forward to working with you toward its passage.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association
Association of California Water Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Water Companies
National Rural Water Association

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable John Shimkus, Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy