



Association of California Water Agencies
Leadership Advocacy Information Since 1910



May 17, 2010

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

The following organizations write in support of your legislation “Get the Lead Out Act” (H.R. 5289). As leaders in protecting the nation’s drinking water supply, we believe that it is vital to reduce allowable concentrations of lead in new drinking water supply lines and plumbing fixtures. H.R. 5289 would accomplish this goal expeditiously and consistent with the efforts underway in the states of California, Vermont and Maryland. Our collective public water agencies supply over 90 percent of the nation’s water delivered for residential, agricultural and industrial uses.

Beginning in 2010, all drinking water fixtures and pipes sold in California were required to meet a more stringent “lead free” standard. Vermont and Maryland enacted similar legislation, and similar bills are pending in a number of other states. H.R. 5289 would apply California’s lead standards to newly installed or repaired pipes and plumbing fixtures across the country, while also protecting the states’ ability to enact stricter standards. According to EPA estimates, drinking water plumbing fixtures may be responsible for contributing as much as 20% of human lead exposure. This exposure can be significantly reduced with the enactment of H.R. 5289.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you as the bill moves forward. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne VanDe Hei
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Tom Curtis
Deputy Executive Director for Government Affairs
American Water Works Association

G. Wade Miller
Executive Director
WaterReuse Association

David Reynolds
Director of Federal Affairs
Association of California Water Agencies