



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES

October 13, 2009

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative DeGette:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) strongly supports the Drinking Water Adaptation, Technology, Education, and Research (WATER) Act, which you recently introduced as H.R. 3727.

The consensus among professional water managers is that significant impacts to water resources are already occurring as a result of climate change. However, the federal government needs to invest more in regionalized climate change research to help water managers identify and prepare for the unique water quality and quantity impacts they will face, including those brought about by climate change-induced drought or floods, changing snowpack amounts and elevations, varying stream flow patterns, freshwater contamination and rising sea levels.

The WATER Act addresses this need by establishing and authorizing funding for a comprehensive applied research program aimed at helping drinking water utilities develop strategies for climate change adaptation. In concert with other water utility adaptation legislation introduced this year (such as H.R. 2969, the "Water System Adaptation Partnerships Act"), this bill will provide local drinking water managers across the United States with the tools they need to make informed decisions on climate adaptation strategies.

Thank you again for sponsoring H.R. 3727. AMWA strongly supports this legislation, and looks forward to the creation of a comprehensive research program studying the full range of impacts that climate change will have on drinking water utilities, water supplies, and customers.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei
Executive Director

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